



MEDIA RELEASE

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THE MIC3 CELEBRATES APRIL AS THE MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

The Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) will **"Purple Up! For Military Kids"** on April 25, 2017. According to the Military Child Education Coalition, of the 2 million military active duty, guard and reserve children, 1.1 million are school-aged between the ages of 5-18, and 76% attend public schools.

Established by former U.S. Secretary of Defense, Caspar Weinberger in 1986, the designation of April as the Month of the Military Child acknowledges the significant role military youth play in our communities. In 2011, the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Military Youth and Family Program started the **"Purple Up! for Military Kids"** as a visible way to show thank military youth for their strength and sacrifice. Why purple? Purple is the color that symbolizes all branches of the military, as it is a combination of Army green, Marine red, and Coast Guard, Air Force, and Navy blue.

"All Americans are blessed by the magnitude of our military's commitment, courage and dedication to the cause of liberty," said Gov. Bevin. "However, it is not solely those in the military who make sacrifices each day. Families, particularly children, are greatly affected by military service. Oftentimes, these children will attend six to nine different school systems throughout their lives from Kindergarten to 12th grade. It is important to recognize the critical role of the military child and the unique challenges they face. We must do everything possible to ease the transition for children of military families and ensure they are afforded the same opportunities for educational success as other children. Declaring April as the 'Month of the Military Child' is a meaningful way to recognize the important role that military children play in our communities."

Developed by the Council of State Governments' *National Center for Interstate Compacts*, the U.S. Department of Defense, national associations, federal and state officials, state departments of education, school administrators and military families, the MIC3 is a governmental entity operating under the *Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children*. With fifty member states and the District of Columbia, the Compact ensures the uniform treatment of military children transferring between states and public school districts.

For more information about MIC3, please visit www.mic3.net.

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