

Iowa Enacts Defense Department's Priority List

Supporting military families was a priority of the Iowa Legislature in 2010. After the Governor took action this week, Iowa is now the first state in the nation to complete the Department of Defense's (DoD) top quality of life issues for military families regarding education, health care, employment, custody issues, and voting.

Below is the top ten list identified by DoD:

- Common key benefits that support Guard and Reserve members and their families
- Ensure deployment separation does not determine child custody or visitation decisions
- Increase access to quality, affordable childcare for military families
- Minimize school disruption for military children during transition and deployment
- Enhance opportunities for portable careers for military spouses
- Expand unemployment compensation for trailing military spouses
- Promote enforcement of the DoD predatory lending regulation
- Improve absentee voting for military members and their families
- Conform state laws with DoD rules on disposition
- Satisfy foreign language requirements

Over the past few years, the Iowa Legislature has worked hard at supporting Iowa's veterans and service members and their families. In anticipation of the Iowa National Guard's largest deployment in the 170-year history of the Iowa National Guard, with over 3,000 members being deployed, Iowa is better prepared to support the military families here at home.

For more information on DoD's official web site for families, USA4Military Families, visit www.usa4militaryfamilies.dod.mil/.