



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May 22, 2020

Chairman Don Kaminar  
Vice Chairman Laura Anatasio  
Executive Director Cherise Imai  
Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3)  
2760 Research Park Drive  
Lexington, KY 40578

Dear Sir and Madam,

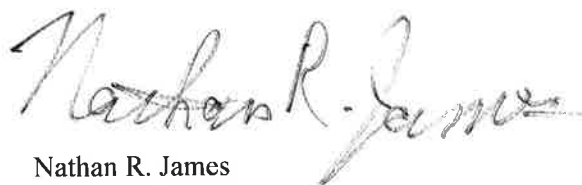
My name is Nathan James and I am the Director of Legislative and External Affairs at the Tennessee State Board of Education (TN SBE). The TN SBE houses the Tennessee Military Interstate Children's Compact Commissioner and the MIC3 Tennessee State Council. In addition to being a staff member at the TN SBE, I am also the TN SBE Executive Director's designee on the MIC3 Tennessee State Council serving in the role of Secretary. The annual dues that the State of Tennessee pays to MIC3 comes out of the TN SBE budget.

During these most difficult economic times we are reevaluating our budget in the event that we are directed by the Governor to reduce our spending. While reviewing the FY2020 Tennessee State Board of Education budget I came across the line item for MIC3 dues. Last year (FY2020) our dues increased from \$1.00 to \$1.15 per active duty military connected child that resides in the State of Tennessee. Aside from expenses related to our Commissioner traveling each year to the MIC3 Annual Business Meeting, to date what has the State of Tennessee received from our membership dues? In my opinion, the MIC3 Tennessee team of Commissioner McLaughlin and Military Family Education Liaison Deb Munis have done an outstanding job of working for military connected children and resolving more than the majority of the MIC3 related cases without contacting the MIC3 National office for assistance. I understand that under the current statute that we cannot reduce the amount of money that Tennessee pays to National MIC3, but during the era of COVID-19 we may be called upon to justify the spending of our taxpayer provided funds by explaining the features and benefits of our financial investment in MIC3.

During our recent MIC3 Tennessee State Council Meeting we discussed what is being done in our state to assist military connected families during the COVID-19 pandemic and our Commissioner has also been sharing resources from other military related organizations to the MIC3 Tennessee Facebook page. What COVID-19 related information, best practices, and tools for military connected children have been provided by National MIC3?

I can imagine that National MIC3 has saved funds due to the current travel restrictions and according to your website, your open staff position. Is National MIC3 observing a hiring freeze like state governments across our country? What is the projected savings for National MIC3 in fiscal year 2020? What is the projected spend savings for National MIC3 in fiscal year 2021? Has your organization considered sending a portion of the funds savings back to the states for use within their own MIC3 organizations? Our Commissioner and State Council have a budget of zero dollars and many times pay out of pocket for expenses incurred by the volunteer positions that they serve in to include; coming up with creative funding solutions to launch the Purple Star School Award program.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my above concerns and questions. I look forward to hearing from you.



Nathan R. James  
Director of Legislative and External Affairs  
Tennessee State Board of Education

CC:  
MIC3 Finance Committee  
Commissioner Deanna McLaughlin  
Tennessee MIC3 State Council