

**CHARLIE CRIST**  
GOVERNOR

June 23, 2008

Secretary Kurt S. Browning  
Secretary of State  
R. A. Gray Building  
500 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Secretary Browning:

By the authority vested in me as Governor of Florida, under the provisions of Article III, Section 8, of the Constitution of Florida, I do hereby transmit Committee Substitute for House Bill 1203, with my signature, enacted during the 110<sup>th</sup> Session of the Legislature of Florida, since statehood in 1845, during the Regular Session of 2008 and entitled:

An act relating to the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity  
for Military Children ...

Committee Substitute for House Bill 1203 creates the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

Florida wholeheartedly supports our military families and appreciates their many sacrifices to support our freedom and national security. Florida law currently contains a variety of provisions that support the enrollment of military dependents who transfer to Florida military installations. Each school district in which there is a military installation must have a memorandum of understanding with the installation regarding the enrollment of students, who are transferred with their parents, to the installation. In addition, high school students who are military dependents are automatically admitted to advanced academic programs in which they were enrolled prior to the transfer.

Unfortunately, the language of the Compact expressly allows closed meetings and records. Florida is a model for the nation in terms of accessible, transparent government, and while I fully support the goals of the Compact, I cannot let its terms circumvent Florida's open government laws. Florida will participate in the Compact to the extent that the Interstate Commission on

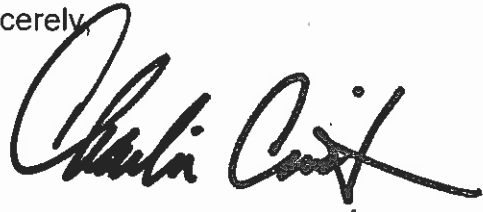
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Educational Opportunity for Military Children operates with full public disclosure. Florida's Commissioner of the Compact will be prohibited from participating in Commission activities that violate such existing open government laws.

I hereby sign Committee Substitute for House Bill 1203 into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charlie Crist". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

Charlie Crist