

**SEC. 577. PROTECTION OF CHILD CUSTODY ARRANGEMENTS
FOR PARENTS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED
FORCES DEPLOYED IN SUPPORT OF A CONTINGENCY
OPERATION.**

(a) **CHILD CUSTODY PROTECTION.**—Title II of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 521 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 208. CHILD CUSTODY PROTECTION.

“(a) **RESTRICTION ON CHANGE OF CUSTODY.**—If a motion for change of custody of a child of a servicemember is filed while the servicemember is deployed in support of a contingency operation, no court may enter an order modifying or amending any previous judgment or order, or issue a new order, that changes the custody arrangement for that child that existed as of the date of the deployment of the servicemember, except that a court may enter a temporary custody order if there is clear and convincing evidence that it is in the best interest of the child.

“(b) **COMPLETION OF DEPLOYMENT.**—In any preceding covered under subsection (a), a court shall require that, upon the return of the servicemember from deployment in support of a contingency operation, the custody order that was in effect immediately preceding the date of the deployment of the servicemember is reinstated.

“(c) **EXCLUSION OF MILITARY SERVICE FROM DETERMINATION OF CHILD’S BEST INTEREST.**—If a motion for the change of custody of the child of a servicemember who was deployed in support of a contingency operation is filed after the end of the deployment, no court may consider the absence of the servicemember by reason of that deployment in determining the best interest of the child.

“(d) **CONTINGENCY OPERATION DEFINED.**—In this section, the term ‘contingency operation’ has the meaning given that term in [section 101\(a\)\(13\)](#) of title 10, United States Code, except that the term may include such other deployments as the Secretary may prescribe.”.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to title II the following new item:

“208. Child custody protection.”.