

Legislation allows widows to remarry without financial penalty □

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Washington, D.C. - Today, Congressman Gus M. Bilirakis (R-Palm Harbor) announced he filed H.R. 704, which addresses the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) program for widows of Armed Service Members.

Currently, widows of Armed Service Members that have died while on active duty or from service-connected causes cannot remarry, without losing their annual benefits, until they reach age 57. This makes the DIC program one of the few federal annuities that do not allow widows to remarry, without financial penalty, at the age of 55. H.R. 704 will align the DIC program with other federal annuity programs by alleviating this unfair age restriction.

"Widows of our fallen heroes deserve the same rights and privileges that other widows receive through federal annuity programs," Congressman Bilirakis said. "These people have lost so much and should not be penalized financially for moving forward with their lives."

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