

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

December 4, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
568 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
2433 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson and Leader Jeffries:

We write to express our strong support of H.R.1282, the Major Richard Star Act, and ask for its swift consideration on the floor of the House of Representatives. This bill would repeal the unfair offset of the Department of Defense's (DoD) retirement benefits and VA disability compensation and provide full concurrent receipt for these veterans who retired with less than 20 years of service.

For more than 100 years before 1999, all disabled military retirees were required to fund their own veterans' disability compensation by forfeiting one dollar of earned retired pay for each dollar received in veterans' disability compensation. Since 1999, Congress has enacted legislation to progressively provide relief for this unfair offset between military retired pay and disability compensation, including in 2004, when Congress implemented concurrent receipt for veterans who served over 20 years and had at least a 50 percent disability rating. However, many veterans remain penalized under the status quo.

Under current law, medically retired veterans with less than 20 years of service who are wounded in combat are still offsetting their DoD retirement pay by their VA disability compensation. Many of these veterans had the full intention of serving for 20 or more years and gain full retirement benefits, but through no fault of their own were unable to, due to their sacrifice in the line of duty. This group of retired veterans, also known as Chapter 61 retirees, are arguably the most at-risk because of their complex combat injuries and have earned and deserve these benefits. The Major Richard Star Act aims to provide help to these veterans by closing the offset gap and allowing these veterans still unable to receive concurrent benefits to do so.

The bill has overwhelming and broad bipartisan support in both chambers of Congress with 326 cosponsors in the House and 73 cosponsors in the Senate. Additionally, the bill has been endorsed by over 23 major Veteran Service Organizations (VSO). The Major Richard Star Act has the momentum and support necessary to carry it quickly through both chambers in Congress and to the President to be signed into law. Given its substantial support in Congress and true bipartisan nature, we respectfully urge you to consider this bill under suspension of the rules at your earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,



Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress



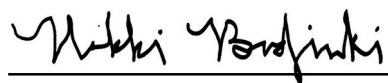
Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress



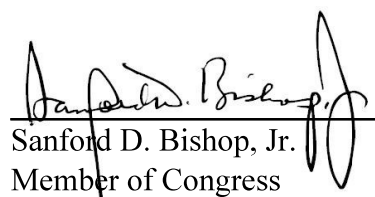
William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski  
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Katie Porter  
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress



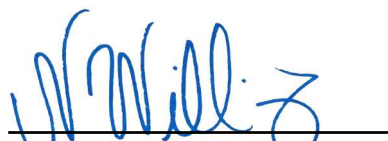
Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



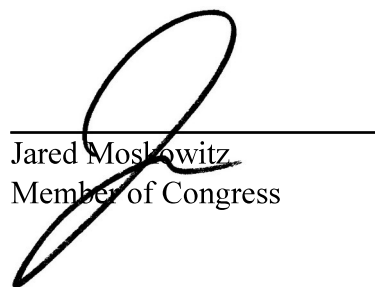
Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



Troy Carter  
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



Jared Moskowitz  
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress



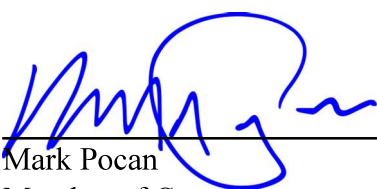
Mikie Sherrill  
Member of Congress



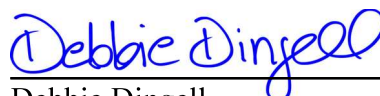
David J. Trone  
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress




Don Bacon  
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen  
Member of Congress



Jay Obernolte  
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress



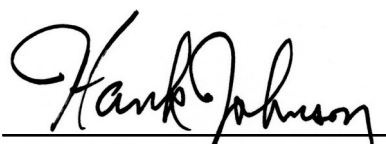
Donald G. Davis  
Member of Congress



Abigail Davis Spanberger  
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



Jefferson Van Drew  
Member of Congress



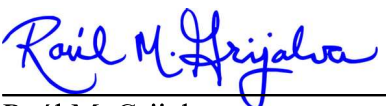
Nick LaLota  
Member of Congress



Gregorio Kilili Camacho  
Sablan  
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



Jake Ellzey  
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress



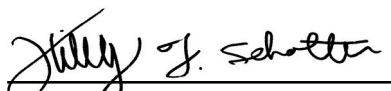
Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress



Young Kim  
Member of Congress



John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



Hillary J. Scholten  
Member of Congress



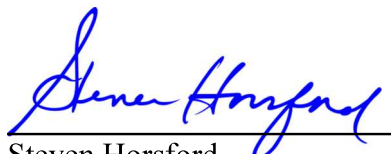
Dan Newhouse  
Member of Congress



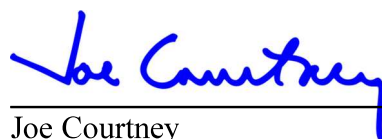
Morgan McGarvey  
Member of Congress



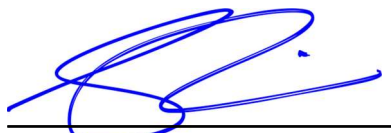
Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress  
Kansas Third District



Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar  
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress



Andre Carson  
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



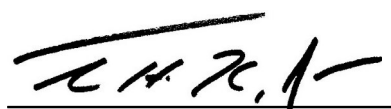
Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



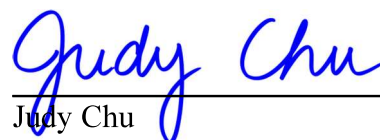
John H. Rutherford  
Member of Congress



Monica De La Cruz  
Member of Congress



Thomas H. Kean, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



Diana Harshbarger  
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress