



National Military and Veterans Alliance
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May 19, 2015

The Honorable Joe Kennedy III
306 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Surviving Spouses Benefit Act of 2015

Dear Representative Kennedy:

The National Military and Veterans Alliance, a non-partisan policy and advocacy organization composed of military and veteran service organizations, writes to thank you for introducing the Surviving Spouses Benefit Improvement Act of 2015.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) and sometimes a small amount of Social Security are the only income many of our members and other surviving spouses have. The Surviving Spouses Benefit Improvement Act of 2015 would raise the amount of VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) to an amount equal to 55% of VA disability compensation for a 100% disabled veteran. This would be consistent with other federal survivor benefits such as military Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), which represents 55% of the covered service member's retired pay.

Raising DIC to this level of consistency has been a long-standing NMVA goal.

We are very pleased that the legislation contains the provision stating that those who are eligible for other survivor programs will have neither a reduction nor an offset in benefits caused by the increase in the DIC. This is a start in addressing our longtime NMVA goal of eliminating the DIC offset to the SBP.

We salute your efforts and leadership in addressing this important issue and we would like you to know that you have our continued thanks. Please feel free to contact us regarding this and any issue affecting military veterans, retirees and their families.

Sincerely,

American Logistics Association
American Military Retirees Association
Army Navy Union
Gold Star Wives
Korean War Veterans Foundation
National Association for Uniformed Services
National Defense Committee

Society of Military Widows
The Retired Enlisted Association
The Military Order of Foreign Wars
The Military Order of the Purple Heart
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors
Uniformed Services Disabled Retirees
Vietnam Veterans of America