

_____, 2021

The Honorable _____
Senator's Name

Address

Dear Senator _____,

My name is _____.

I am a member of the Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. As you may know, the Gold Star Wives is a national organization which represents those of us who have lost a spouse through military service to our country.

I want to bring to your attention and seek your support for **S. 976. *The Caring for Survivors Act of 2021***, which has the companion bill **H.R. 3402**.

This bill addresses two issues: The rate of compensation to all Surviving Spouses; **and** compensation for Surviving Spouses of disabled Veterans, who have not reached the 10 year mark for minimum eligibility.

This bill is critical to Surviving Spouses! I would like to tell you why it is important to me.

The bill will increase the Dependent Indemnity Compensation (DIC), which was earned by the death of our spouses. This will bring the amount of the DIC payment to equal the compensation paid to other Federal employee spouses. **This will give military widow(er)s parity.**

Totally disabled Veterans may die of causes which cannot always be directly linked to their service-connected condition. If this happens before the minimum eligibility of 10 years, no compensation is paid. **This bill would begin compensation at the 5 year mark.**

Thank you so much for your support. If you, or your Veterans Affairs staff would like more information, our advocate in Washington, D.C. would be happy to speak with you. His name is Lars Anderson, and he can be reached at lars.goldstarwives@gmail.com

Respectfully,