

201 North Washington Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314 (703) 838-8113

May 22, 2014

The Honorable John F. Tierney United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Tierney:

The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of uniformed services and veterans associations representing more than 5.5 million current and former servicemembers and their families and survivors, is grateful for your initiative to ensure fair and equal treatment for all survivors by sponsoring the Survivor Benefit Improvement Act of 2014.

Your bill 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 the 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 Coalition goal.

We are pleased that the legislation contains the provision that those who are eligible for other programs will have neither a reduction nor an offset in benefits.

The Military Coalition supports H.R. XX and pledges its full support for enactment this year.

Sincerely, The Military Coalition (Signatures enclosed)

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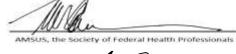
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Chaplains Assn. of the USA

The Retired Enlisted Assn.

USCG Chief Petty Officers Assn.

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