

May 21, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Burgess  
Chairman, Committee on Rules  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim McGovern  
Ranking Member, Committee on Rules  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader Jeffries, Chairman Burgess, and Ranking Member McGovern:

The Military and Veteran Service Organizations (MSO/VSOs) listed below respectfully request you waive House Rule XXI, Clause 10, "CUTGO rule" on the *Major Richard Star Act* (H.R. 1282) for inclusion in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). This legislation was reported out of the House Committee on Armed Services with unanimous consent and is supported by more than two-thirds of the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress, with 326 cosponsors in the House.

Currently, our combat-injured (and often seriously disabled) veterans are subject to a decrement where their retirement pay is reduced for every dollar of Veterans Administration (VA) disability received. Retired pay is for completed years of service paid by the Department of Defense (DoD), while disability compensation is for injury paid by VA. These two benefits, established by Congress for entirely different reasons, are nonetheless subject to a statutory offset. To reduce earned retirement pay because of a combat disability is an injustice and not the place to achieve savings in the DoD personnel account.

We sincerely appreciate your leadership on this important issue and urge you to waive the rule and include the *Major Richard Star Act* in the FY 2025 NDAA.

Sincerely,

**Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA)**  
**Air & Space Forces Association (AFA)**  
**The American Legion (TAL)**  
**American Veterans (AMVETS)**  
**Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA)**  
**Association of the United States Navy (AUSN)**  
**Blue Star Families (BSF)**  
**Blinded Veterans Association (BVA)**  
**Chief Warrant and Warrant Officers Association of the US Coast Guard (CWO)**  
**Disabled American Veterans (DAV)**  
**Fleet Reserve Association (FRA)**  
**The Independence Fund (TIF)**  
**Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America (JWV)**

**K9s for Warriors**

**Military Chaplains Association of the United States of America (MCA)**

**Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)**

**Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)**

**Non-Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA)**

**National Defense Committee (NDC)**

**Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA)**

**National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS)**

**National Military Family Association (NMFA)**

**Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)**

**The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA)**

**Reserve Organization of America (ROA)**

**Student Veterans of America (SVA)**

**Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)**

**United States Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA)**

**USCG Chief Petty Officers Association (CPOA)**

**Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)**

**Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)**

**Wounded Warrior Project (WWP)**