



April 13, 2021

The Honorable John Garamendi
U.S. House of Representatives
2368 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Garamendi,

The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of uniformed services and veterans' associations representing more than 5.5 million current and former service members, their families, and survivors, wants to express our support for the *Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act* (H.R. 2214). This bill allows for the retention of the full final month's retired pay by the surviving spouse, or other designated survivor, of a military retiree for the month in which the member was alive for at least 24 hours.

Military retirees receive their retirement pay at the beginning of the month. If they die during that month, their survivors are required to repay a portion of that month's pension payment. However, many surviving spouses are unaware that they are required to notify the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) immediately following the death of the military retiree. They are unprepared when DFAS reaches into their bank accounts to recoup any overpayment of retirement pay. This action could easily empty the account of any funds remaining whether they were retirement payments or money from other sources, creating financial hardship for surviving family members who are already grieving the loss of the military retiree. Instead of withdrawing the payment all at once, the *Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act* (H.R. 2214) would allow a gradual repayment over 12 months and gives the Secretary of Defense the option to forgive the over payment.

Thank you for introducing this important legislation. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Coalition. We appreciate your continued support of our nation's service members, veterans, their families, and survivors.

See attached list of TMC supporting organizations.

Sincerely,

Jack Du Teil
President,



Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA)
Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA)
Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS)
Association of the United States Army (AUSA)
Blind Veterans of America (BVA)
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc. (COA)
Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS)
Fleet Reserve Association (FRA)
Gold Star Wives of America (GSW)
Iraq Afghanistan Veterans Association (IAVA)
Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America (JWV)
Marine Corps League (MCL)
Marine Corps Reserve Association (MCRA)
Military Chaplains Association of the United States of America (MCA)
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)
National Military Family Association (NMFA)
Non-Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA)
Reserve Organization of America (ROA)
Service Women's Action Network (SWAN)
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)
The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA)
United States Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA)
USCG Chief Petty Officers Association (CPOA)
Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
VetsFirst, United Spinal Program