

JOHN A. YARMUTH
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
3RD DISTRICT, KENTUCKY

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
CHAIRMAN

HOUSE DEMOCRATIC STEERING
AND POLICY COMMITTEE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1703

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September 17, 2019

The Honorable Adam Smith
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James Inhofe
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith, Chairman Inhofe, Ranking Member Thornberry, and Ranking Member Reed,

As you begin deliberations for the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 conference, we respectfully request you keep the House-passed repeal of the Survivor Benefit Plan/ Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (SBP/DIC) offset, also known as the "widow's tax," in the final agreement. Surviving families of the men and women of our military have been waiting for a fix to this unfair offset for 40 years.

Current law unfairly requires surviving spouses of deceased military members to forfeit part or all of their Department of Defense Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity when they receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from the Department of Veterans Affairs. More than 60,000 surviving families are negatively impacted by the SBP-DIC offset, which reduces surviving spouses' benefits by an average of \$924 per month, or \$11,000 annually. The House-passed NDAA eliminated this unfair offset.


It is clear that Congress understands the importance of this issue and the need to finally end the widow's tax. The two pieces of legislation repealing this offset have a record number of bipartisan cosponsors. H.R. 553, The Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act currently has 372 cosponsors, and the companion legislation S. 622 has 75 cosponsors.

Our nation made promises to the surviving spouses of fallen service members, and it is among our highest moral responsibilities to see those promises honored. For far too long, Congress has failed to do what's right and keep our word to our heroes and their families. Now is the time to


repeal this offset once and for all, and send a clear message to those families that we value their sacrifice and we value the heroism of their loved ones.

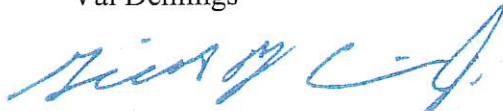
Thank you for your consideration of this request. We hope we can count on your support.


Sincerely,


John Yarmuth



C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger



Val Demings


Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.



TJ Cox



Eleanor Holmes Norton

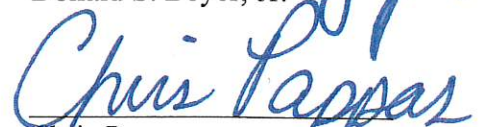

Brian Higgins


Mike Thompson


Jason Crow


Lori Trahan


Donald S. Beyer, Jr.



Chris Pappas



Debbie Dingell



Harley Rouda

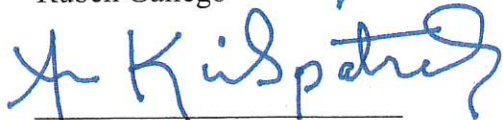

Ed Perlmutter



Steve Cohen


Gerald E. Connolly


Mike Doyle

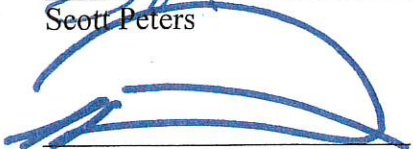

Ruben Gallego


Ann Kirkpatrick



Andy Kim

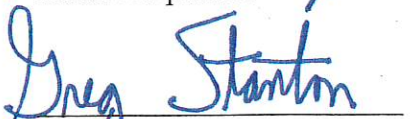

Anthony G. Brown



Scott Peters


Scott DesJarlais, M.D.



Vicente Gonzalez


Brian Fitzpatrick


Greg Stanton


Alan Lowenthal


Peter A. DeFazio


Elaine G. Luria



Peter Welch


Terri A. Sewell

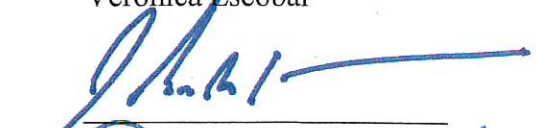

Bobby L. Rush

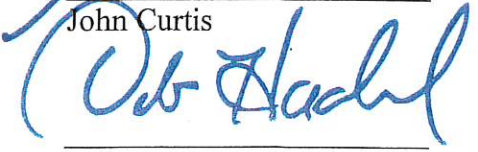

Cynthia Axne


Juan Vargas


James P. McGovern

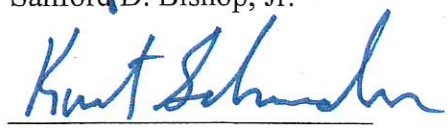

Veronica Escobar


John Curtis

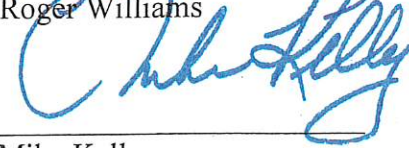

Deb Haaland


Jim Costa

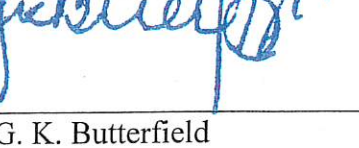

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.


Kurt Schrader



Roger Williams


Mike Kelly


Lisa Blunt Rochester

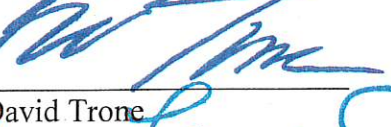

G. K. Butterfield

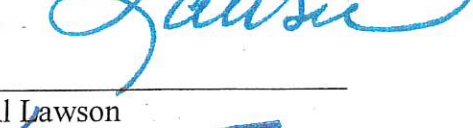

Lucille Roybal-Allard


Alcee L. Hastings


Mark Takano


Randy K. Weber


David Trone

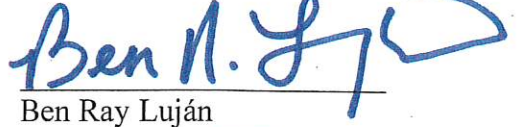

Al Lawson


Xochitl Torres Small


Tulsi Gabbard

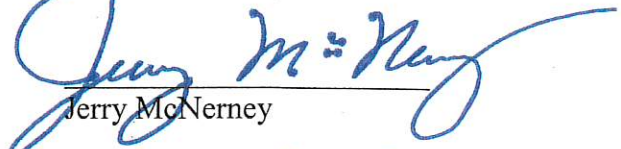

Linda T. Sánchez


Debbie Mucarsel-Powell


Ben Ray Luján


Sean Patrick Maloney

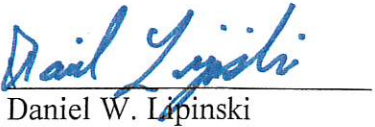

Jerrold Nadler



Jerry McNerney


Josh Harder

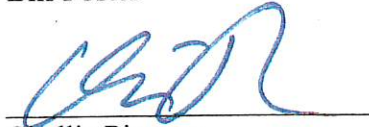

Pete Olson

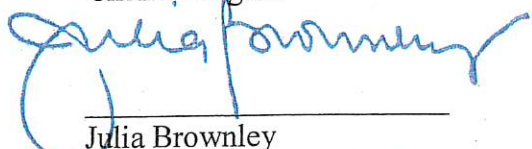

Katie Hill


Daniel W. Lipinski

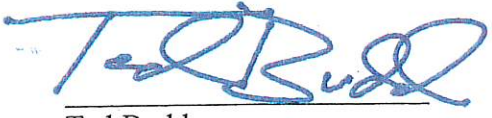

Jeff Van Drew

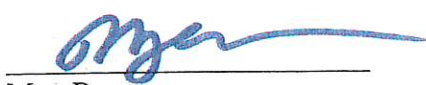

Bill Foster


Chellie Pingree

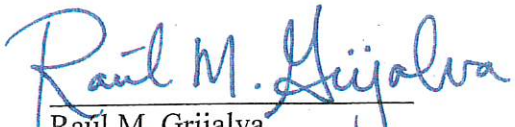

Julia Brownley

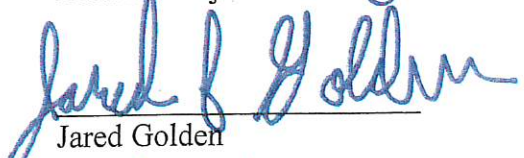

Albio Sires


Ted Budd



Max Rose



Sylvia R. Garcia


Raúl M. Grijalva


Jared Golden

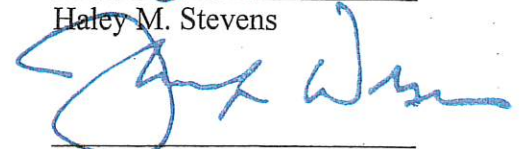

Kelly Armstrong

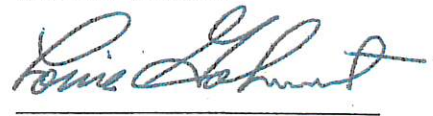

Ross Spano

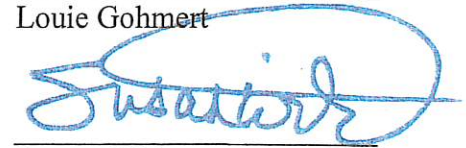

Raja Krishnamoorthi

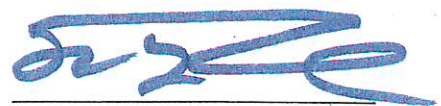

Diana DeGette


Haley M. Stevens

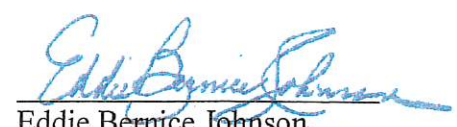

Jennifer Wexton

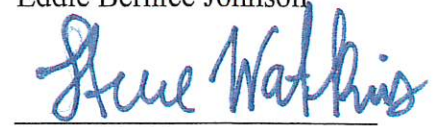

Louie Gohmert



Susan Wild

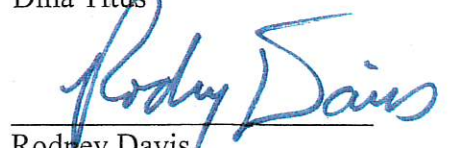

Cedric L. Richmond


Tom R. Suozzi


Eddie Bernice Johnson

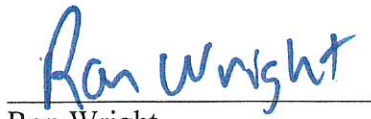

Steve Watkins


Dina Titus


Rodney Davis



Betty McCollum


Conor Lamb


Ron Wright


Dean Phillips



Bill Pascrell, Jr.

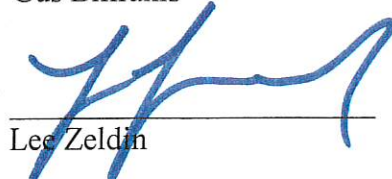

Joseph P. Kennedy, III

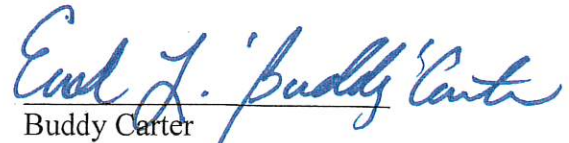

Al Green



Bill Johnson



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.


Gus Bilirakis

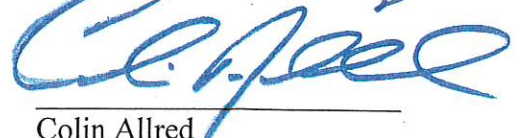

Lee Zeldin


Buddy Carter

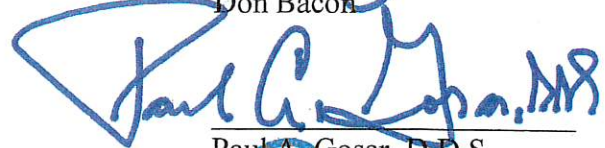

Joe Neguse

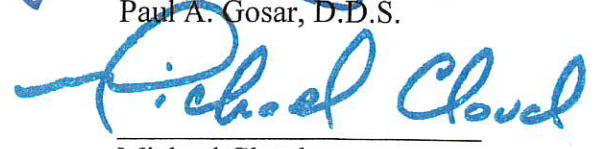

Sharice L. Davids

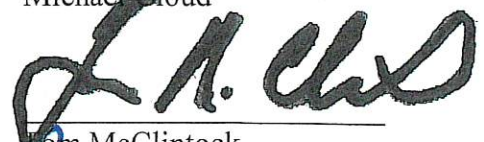

Peter King

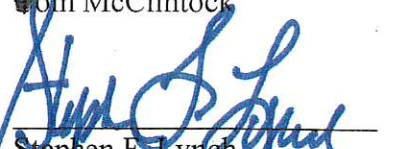

Colin Allred

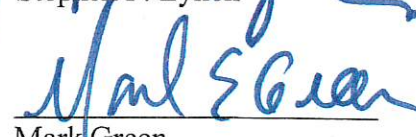

Don Bacon


Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.


Michael Cloud


Tom McClintock


Stephen F. Lynch


Mark Green

Don's Matsui

Doris O. Matsui

Dan Crenshaw

Dan Crenshaw

Lucy McBath

Lucy McBath

Ted S. Yoho

Ted S. Yoho, DVM

Danny K. Davis

Danny K. Davis

Jan Schakowsky

Jan Schakowsky

Sean Casten

Sean Casten

Greg Gianforte

Greg Gianforte

Ben McAdams

Ben McAdams

Kathy Castor

Kathy Castor

Ro Khanna

Ro Khanna

Angie Craig

Angie Craig

Mike Levin

Mike Levin

Salud Carbajal

Salud Carbajal

Don Young

Don Young

Emanuel Cleaver, II

Emanuel Cleaver, II

David N. Cicilline

David N. Cicilline

Darren Soto

Darren Soto

Tom O'Halleran

Tom O'Halleran

Suzan K. DelBene

Suzan K. DelBene

Stephanie Murphy

Stephanie Murphy

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

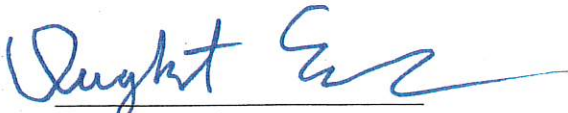
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

French Hill

French Hill

Jahana Hayes

Jahana Hayes



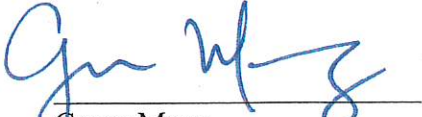
Dwight Evans




Scott R. Tipton



Rick Crawford



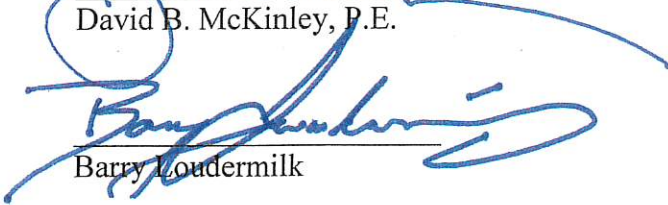
Grace Meng



Mark Meadows



David B. McKinley, P.E.



Barry Loudermilk



André Carson



Mario Diaz-Balart



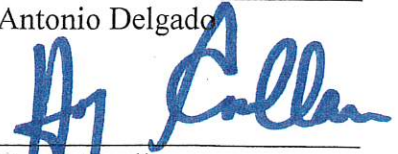
Anna G. Eshoo



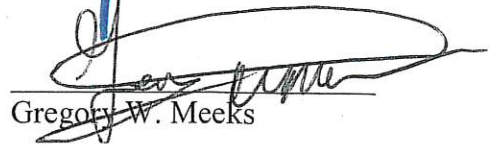
Mary Gay Scanlon



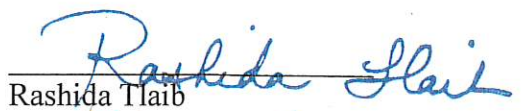
Antonio Delgado



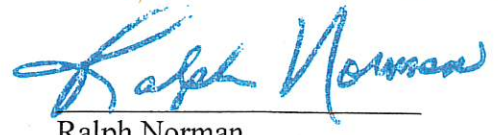
Henry Cuellar



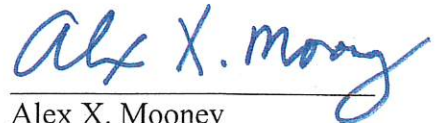
Gregory W. Meeks



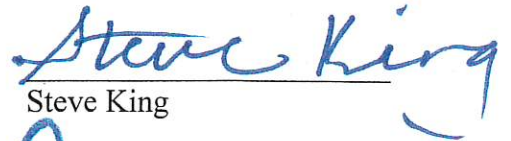
Rashida Tlaib



Ralph Norman



Alex X. Mooney



Steve King



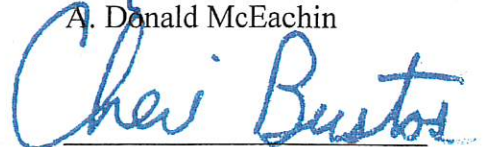
Joaquin Castro



Denver L. Riggleman, III



A. Donald McEachin



Cheri Bustos

Donna E. Shalala

Donna E. Shalala

Jack Bergman

Jack Bergman

Bill Flores

Bill Flores

Lloyd Doggett

Lloyd Doggett

Ann McLane Kuster

Ann McLane Kuster

Abigail D. Spanberger

Abigail D. Spanberger

Brendan F. Boyle

Brendan F. Boyle

Katie Porter

Katie Porter

Pramila Jayapal

Pramila Jayapal

Bonnie Watson Coleman

Bonnie Watson Coleman

Susie Lee

Susie Lee

Dave Loebsack

Dave Loebsack

Doug Lamborn

Doug Lamborn

Denny Heck

Denny Heck

Jesus G. "Chuy" Garcia

Jesus G. "Chuy" Garcia

Norma J. Torres

Norma J. Torres

Charlie Crist

Charlie Crist

Brad Sherman

Brad Sherman

Abby Finkenauer

Abby Finkenauer

Elissa Slotkin

Elissa Slotkin

Derek Kilmer

Derek Kilmer