

June 24, 2026

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Chairman
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Bost
Chairman
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mark Takano
Ranking Member
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Moran and Bost, and Ranking Members Blumenthal and Takano,

As organizations representing millions of veterans, service members, survivors, caregivers, and military families of all generations, we have long worked with Congress to protect and strengthen the benefits and services earned through military service. For that reason, we do not support the funding mechanism within the *Take Care of America's Veterans Act* (H.R. 9237/S. 4744) that would significantly reduce future benefits for more than a million disabled veterans.

The Veterans Affairs Schedule for Rating Disabilities is intended to reflect medical evidence, functional impairment, and scientific expertise, not serve as a budgetary offset. If Congress establishes the precedent that disability ratings may be rewritten through statute to generate “savings”, future Congresses will have a ready-made roadmap for reducing earned benefits whenever fiscal pressures arise. Disability compensation is not a government program to be trimmed when convenient. It is earned compensation for injuries and illnesses incurred in service to our nation.

Some supporters argue that Congress is simply implementing changes previously proposed by the Department of Veterans Affairs. However, VA never finalized those proposals, largely due to receiving more than 2,600 comments raising concerns about the medical justification for the changes and their impact on future veterans. In fact, VA spokesman Quinn Slaven recently stated, “No changes are planned or imminent,” and noted that the agency is still reviewing the proposed rule, which “would need to undergo **significant changes** [emphasis added] prior to being finalized” before any implementation could occur (Slaven, quoted in GovExec, June 16, 2026).

We are also troubled that reductions to future VA disability compensation are being used to finance provisions such as the *Major Richard Star Act*, which addresses a military retirement inequity rooted in Department of Defense policy. Correcting a Title 10 obligation should not come at the expense of Title 38 benefits. We continue to support enactment of a clean and complete *Major Richard Star Act* that delivers full concurrent receipt to combat-injured retirees without reducing earned benefits for future veterans.

Congress can and should address these priorities without reducing compensation for future disabled veterans, bypassing the regulatory process, or undermining confidence in the disability compensation system.

We respectfully urge Congress to find a different path forward for these important benefit increases, including a clean and complete Major Richard Star Act, that does not force one generation of veterans to bear the cost for another.

Sincerely,

DAV (Disabled American Veterans)
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America
Jewish War Veterans
Marine Corps League
National Organization of Veterans' Advocates
National Veterans Legal Services Program
Reserve Organization of America
Veterans of Foreign Wars
54kVeterans