

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 70

BY SENATOR CLOUD AND REPRESENTATIVE OWEN

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the Congress of the United States and the administration of United States President Donald Trump to take such actions as are necessary to pass the Major Richard Star Act to ensure that combat-wounded, medically retired service members receive full military entitlements.

WHEREAS, the law currently prohibits approximately fifty thousand combat-wounded, medically retired service members from receiving, concurrently, a full military retirement pay and disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

WHEREAS, this prohibition results in a dollar-for-dollar offset, denying veterans full earned benefits despite the many sacrifices made in service to our great nation; and

WHEREAS, Richard Star was a decorated United States Army Major who served on the front line in Iraq and Afghanistan, suffered serious combat-related injuries leading to a medical retirement, and tragically passed away from lung cancer in 2021; and

WHEREAS, upon his death, the family of Major Richard Star loss significant retirement benefits as a direct result of the unjust dollar-for-dollar offset; and

WHEREAS, support of the Major Richard Star Act includes six members of the Louisiana congressional delegation: Representatives Julia Letlow (R-LA-5), Troy A. Carter (D-LA-2), Cleo Fields (D-LA-6), and Clay Higgins (R-LA-3) in the House of Representatives, and Senators John Kennedy (R-LA) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA) in the United States Senate; and

WHEREAS, the Major Richard Star Act, reintroduced in the 119th Congress as H.R.2101 in the House of Representatives and S.1032 in the Senate, would eliminate the offset for veterans with combat-related disabilities and allow service members to receive, without reduction, both the earned retirement pay from the Department of Defense and a disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

WHEREAS, H.R.2102, sponsored by Representative Gus M. Bilirakis (R-FL), currently has three hundred fourteen cosponsors in the United States House of Representatives, and S.1032, sponsored by Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), has seventy-seven cosponsors in the United States Senate, demonstrating strong bipartisan support; and

WHEREAS, despite widespread bipartisan support and the introduction of the legislation in March 2025, the Major Richard Star Act remains stalled in committee as of February 2026, with no floor vote or further action taken; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana is deeply disappointed that the United States Congress has failed to enact the Major Richard Star Act, thereby neglecting to properly care for our combat-injured veterans who have sacrificed so much for our freedom and security; and

WHEREAS, passing the Major Richard Star Act is essential to honor the promises made to our military veterans and ensure that proper entitlements and the full benefits earned, through member service and sacrifice, are received.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States and the administration of United States President Donald Trump to take such actions as are necessary to pass the Major Richard Star Act (H.R.2102 and S.1032) to ensure that combat wounded, medically retired service members receive proper military entitlements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the president of the United States, the secretary of the United States Senate, the clerk of the House of Representatives, and each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress in recognition of the urgent need to support our nation's combat-wounded, medically retired service members.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES