



September 27, 2022

The Honorable Charles Schumer
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell,

The Military Coalition (TMC), representing more than 5.5 million current and former uniformed service members, veterans, their families, and survivors, is writing to ask you to ensure the *Major Richard Star Act* (S.344/H.R.1282) is included in the FY 2023 NDAA. Currently, there are 67 cosponsors in the Senate and 318 cosponsors in the House.

The Star Act would support more than 50,300 combat-injured veterans with concurrent receipt of vested retired pay and VA disability. Currently, these combat-injured (and often seriously disabled) veterans are subject to a cost-saving offset where their retirement pay is reduced for every dollar of VA disability received. Retired pay is for completed years of service paid by DoD, while disability compensation is for lifelong injury paid by the VA. These two benefits, established by Congress for entirely different reasons, are nonetheless subject to an unjust statutory offset. To reduce earned retirement pay because of a combat disability is an injustice and is an unfair way to achieve savings.

TMC commends your leadership on this important issue and urges you to include the Star Act in the FY 2023 NDAA. You can collectively deliver and ensure timely passage of this important legislation this year.

Sincerely,

President,
The Military Coalition

See attached list of organizations

The Military Coalition:

Air & Space Force Association (AFA)

Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA)

AMVETS (American Veterans)

AMSUS, the Society of Federal Health Professionals

Association of the United States Army (AUSA)

Association of the United States Navy (AUSN)

Blinded Veterans Association (BVA)

Chief Warrant Officers Association of the US Coast Guard (CWOA)

Fleet Reserve Association (FRA)

Gold Star Wives of America (GSW)

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)

Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America (JWV)

K9s for Warriors

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)

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA)

Non-Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA)

Reserve Organization of America (ROA)

The Independence Fund (TIF)

The Enlisted Association (TREA)

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)

United States Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA)

USCG Chief Petty Officers Association (CPOA)

VetsFirst, United Spinal Association

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)

Wounded Warrior Project (WWP)