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February 25, 2021

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

Fax: 202-225-5914

Dear Representative Garamendi:

Thank you for introducing the “Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act” at FRA’s request. 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.

Surviving spouses who are unaware that the Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS) should be notified immediately on the death of the military retiree are surprised to learn of this requirement. Those who had joint bank accounts, in which retirement payments were made electronically, gave little if any thought that DFAS could swoop down and recoup any overpayments of retirement pay from such accounts. This action could easily clear the account of any funds remaining whether they were retirement payments or money from other sources.

The Association appreciates your attention to this much needed legislation and stands ready to assist you in its passage. The FRA point of contact is John Davis, Director of Legislative Programs, at the above numbers or ([john@fra.org](mailto:john@fra.org)).

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER J. SLAWINSKI  
National Executive Director

CJS:jd:tw