



125 N. West Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

1-800-FRA-1924
703-683-1400
703-549-6610 (fax)

May 28, 2014

The Honorable John F. Tierney
U.S. House of Representatives
2238 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Fax: 202-225-5915

Dear Representative Tierney:

The Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) supports the "Survivor Benefit Improvement Act" (H.R. 4741) which provides for an increase in the amount of monthly VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) to 55 percent paid to surviving spouses whose spouse died on active duty or a veteran who died from a service connected disability.

There is a disparity between the percentage of income a DIC receives and the percentage of other retirement plans. DIC provides 41 percent and civilian federal pension plans provide 55 percent or 50 percent and a lump sum payment. More than 81 percent of surviving spouses are 65 or older and 44 percent of surviving spouses have annual income below \$20,000.

The bill also eliminates the Survivor Benefit Program (SBP)/DIC offset, which has been a long-standing goal for FRA.

The Association is grateful for your sponsorship of 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).

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. SNEE
National Executive Director

TJS:jd:tw

