



January 17th, 2017

The Honorable Dean Heller
United States Senate
324 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: S. 66: A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes.

Dear Senator Heller,

The American Military Retirees Association writes to thank you for your leadership in addressing the issue of concurrent receipt for our disabled military retirees by sponsoring S. 66.

As you know, military retirement is earned by serving twenty or more years in the military, compensates for longevity of service, and is funded by the DoD. Disability pay is earned in connection with those years of service and compensates for pain and suffering, can be both combat and non-combat related, and is funded through the VA.

Prior to 2004 all disabled military retirees were forced to comply with the offset. Since 2004 military retirees with 20 or more years of service and a disability rating of 50 percent or higher are allowed to receive both their military retirement pay and their VA disability compensation without the offset. However, current law does not eliminate the offset for those service-connected disabled military retirees with 20 or more years of service and with VA ratings of less than 50%.

The American Military Retirees Association is committed to the notion that by not being allowed to receive both retired pay and VA compensation, a veteran who was wounded in combat or otherwise disabled as a result of his or her service but has a rating less than fifty percent is actually paying for being wounded or disabled out of his or her military retired pay.

We encourage you to advance this legislation quickly and we offer our assistance and support in order to ensure that America's disabled military retirees receive the financial benefits that they have earned as a result of their faithful service to our nation.

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We salute your efforts and leadership in addressing this important issue and we would like you to know that you have our continued thanks for your efforts on behalf of America's military retirees and their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Painter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ted" and last name "Painter" clearly distinguishable.

Ted Painter
National Legislative Director