



Legislative Watch

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In This Week's Legislative Watch:

Congress Begins its Two Week "Spring Break": How You Can Keep Them Working

Current Legislation that Requires Your Action

AMRA Member Engagement Guarantees Success

Congress Begins its Two Week "Spring Break": How You Can Keep Them Working

Congress will be on "Spring Break" between April 10-April 21 and although only a few will be heading to Florida's beaches, if given the opportunity, many will be hitting the links, going fishing, or phoning it in from the comfort of their couch during the 7th inning stretch. It's up to all of us to keep our representatives working for the money that we pay them and this can be done easily by scheduling a meeting with them in the district office nearest you.

Most of us can't visit our Members of Congress when they're in DC so take advantage of this two week opportunity to visit them at home. Of course, you're encouraged to talk with them about whatever is on your mind but if you want speak up for AMRA or if you're just not sure what to discuss, try the two topics below. These are the two heavy lifts that AMRA is grappling with during the first part of this Congressional session and we need all of our members to give us a hand. So, don't let your money pay for your Representatives to sink their toes in the sand with a cold one in their hand. Schedule a meeting today. And, tell them AMRA sent you.

Current Legislation that Requires Your Action

SBP-DIC offset: We are pleased to announce that Congressman Joe Wilson and Senator Nelson have **introduced House Resolution 846 and Senate Bill 339**. These bills would repeal current law which allows the federal government to garnish a surviving spouse's wages by deducting her Survivor Benefit Plan payment in order to fund her Disability Indemnification Compensation benefit—both of which are earned (and in the case of SBP, paid for by her spouse prior to death).

Congressman Wilson and Senator Nelson have done their part. **It is now up to us to advance this legislation by urging your House Representative to support the bill.** AMRA has made this very easy to do. Simply click on the links below and in less than a minute you can send a letter to your elected House and Senate lawmakers.

Your action, whether you're affected by the offset or not, is greatly needed in order to finally end this unfair wage garnishment. Please act today!

Send a Letter to Congress Today:

H.R. 846: <http://cqrcengage.com/amra/HR846theMilitarySurvivingSpousesEquityAct>

S. 339: <http://cqrcengage.com/amra/S979TheMilitarySurvivingSpousesEquityAct>

Concurrent Receipt Offset: Senator Heller has introduced S. 66, a bill to end the offset of retirement pay and VA disability pay. It is very important for your House and Senate lawmakers to co-sponsor this bill and its companion House bills, H.R. 303 and HR 333. H.R. 303 and S. 66 aim to eliminate the current offset for all regular retirees with less than 50% disability ratings. H.R. 333 would end the offset for this group as well as medically retired (chapter 61) retirees with less than twenty years of service.

Send a Letter to Congress Today:

S. 66: <http://cqrcengage.com/amra/S271ConcurrentReceipt>

H.R. 303: <http://cqrcengage.com/amra/HR303ConcurrentReceipt>

H.R. 333: <http://cqrcengage.com/amra/ConcurrentReceiptPlusChap61>

AMRA Member Engagement Guarantees Success

The last session of Congress saw several legislative victories for AMRA. The current session will see us tackling two very large issues: Concurrent Receipt and the SBP-DIC offset. Your engagement in these issues with your elected officials in the house and senate will be integral to any success that AMRA may have in these areas. You are urged to utilize the CAPWIZ tool on our website and to stay in regular contact with your lawmakers—the squeaky wheel gets the grease! Thank you. AMRA looks forward to a successful 115th session of Congress.