



February 24th, 2016

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

Re: Space-Available Travel for 100% Totally & Permanently Disabled Military Veteran

Dear Senator Heller,

The American Military Retirees Association writes to thank you for your leadership in addressing the issue of space- available travel for our disabled military veterans by introducing companion legislation to H.R. 2264: To amend title 10, United States Code, to establish a space-available transportation priority for veterans of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected, permanent disability rated as total and their dependents.

Under current law, disabled, medically-retired service members with less than 20 years of service and their eligible dependents and disabled retirees with 20 or more years of service and their eligible dependents may fly on military aircraft when there is extra space onboard. However, one hundred percent totally and permanently disabled veterans who were not medically retired are ineligible for this privilege.

Honorably discharged, one hundred percent service-connected disabled veterans are currently eligible for all of the military service programs and privileges that disabled retirees with less than twenty years of service are eligible for, with the exception of space-available travel and retirement pay. The American Military Retirees Association strongly supports extending the travel benefit to these veterans and their dependents.

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 cursive script, appearing to read 'Ted Painter'.

Ted Painter
National Legislative Director