



**Position Paper**  
**Space-Available Travel for Veterans**  
**with Disabilities Rated Total & Permanent**

**Issue:** Under current law, disabled service members who served for less than twenty years and were medically retired by the DoD or retirees with twenty or more years of service who received a disability rating after retirement and their eligible dependents may fly on military aircraft when there is extra space onboard. However, veterans who are rated by the VA as having a service-connected, 100% total and permanent disability are not eligible for this travel benefit.

**Background:** The key difference between a service member who is rated by the VA as 100% totally and permanently disabled and a service member who was medically retired for the same or similar disability is the fact that the medically retired service member went before a DoD medical review board and was subsequently “medically retired” under chapter 61 while on active duty. The 100% T & P service member, on the other hand, applied for and was granted a VA disability rating after being discharged from the service.

**AMRA Position:** We fully support allowing veterans with a permanent disability rated as total to fly on a space-available basis aboard any scheduled or non-scheduled military flight. Our nation’s disabled veterans live every day coping with their service-connected disability and we owe a great deal of gratitude to these selfless veterans. Honorably discharged, 100% total and permanent service-connected disabled veterans are currently eligible for all of the military service programs and privileges that disabled retirees who were retired with less than twenty years of service are eligible for, with the exception of space-available travel and retirement pay. By expanding travel options for our nation’s 100% T & P veterans, we can help ensure they receive the same privileges, with the exception of retirement pay, that those who were medically retired from service enjoy.

**Current Legislation:**

H.R. 2264: Representative Bilirakis (R-FL-12) 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.