The American Legion

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April 1, 2019

The Honorable Doug Jones
United States Senate
330 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Doug Jones:

On behalf of the nearly 2 million members of The American Legion, we wish express support for **S.622** entitled, *The Military Widows Elimination Act of 2019* as currently written. This bill, as currently written, would amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) for military spouses to offset the receipt of veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation.

Under current federal law, if the surviving spouse of a military retiree is eligible to receive monthly Survivor Benefit Program (SBP) annuity payment and is also awarded a monthly Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefit by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the SBP annuity is offset, dollar-for-dollar, by the amount of DIC received. This offset is an injustice to surviving spouses of America's heroes.

American Legion Resolution number 85, entitled *Support for Military Quality of Life Standards* passed at The American Legion's National Convention in 2016, supports legislation that the Survivor Benefit Plan/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (SBP/DIC) offset be eliminated.

The American Legion applauds your leadership in addressing issues that are important to America's servicemembers, veterans and their families.

For God & Country,

BRETT P. REISTAD
National Commander