The American Legion

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OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

January 24, 2018

Honorable Sanford D. Bishop
United States House of Representatives
2407 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Bishop:

On behalf of the 2 million members of The American Legion, I write to express support for H.R. 333 *Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act*. This bill, as currently written, provides for a comprehensive solution to the concurrent receipt problem facing members of our nation's Armed Services. Concurrent receipt refers to when a veteran receives income from both Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation and military retirement pay. Under current law, many veterans face a dollar-for-dollar offset on their military retirement pay based on their VA disability compensation, despite having rightfully earned both benefits through their service and sacrifice to our country.

The *Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act*, reflects The American Legion's view that military retired pay is compensation for longevity of honorable military service. VA service-connected disability compensation is payment for medical conditions incurred or aggravated while on active duty. These two earned benefits to a retired veteran are thus made for two very distinct and very different reasons.

Through American Legion Resolution number 224, titled *Support for Concurrent Receipt of Military Retirement Pay and VA Disability Compensation,* passed at The American Legion's National Convention in 2016, we are able to support such a measure to better the quality of life for veterans. The American Legion applauds your leadership in continuing to make the case for fairness and equity for our nation's warriors. In this case, retired pay and disability compensation are two entirely different types of earned benefit payments and our federal government must not discriminate against these retired warriors by taking their money away from them.

Sincerely,

Denise H. Rohan

DENISE H. ROHAN
National Commander