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Thank you for holding this member hearing today. I want to once again bring to the attention of the Committee the importance of concurrent receipt to the Veteran community. Specifically, the Major Richard Star Act.

Under current law, medically retired veterans with less than 20 years of service who are wounded in combat still have their DoD retirement pay offset by their VA disability compensation. Many of these veterans had the full intention of serving for 20 or more years, but through no fault of their own were unable to do so, due to their sacrifice in the line of duty. The Major Richard Star Act aims to provide support to those veterans by closing the offset gap and allowing those veterans still unable to receive concurrent benefits to do so.

The bill has overwhelming and broad bipartisan support in both chambers of Congress with over 300 cosponsors in the House and over 70 cosponsors in the Senate. Additionally, the bill has been endorsed by over 23 Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs). Yet, despite that support, this bill continues to stall because of concerns over cost.

Fiscal responsibility matters, but it should never come at the expense of the men and women who have sacrificed so much to protect our freedom.

I have been and will continue to work diligently to fight for this issue until we can land on legislative text that everybody can agree on. Our Veterans surely deserve it. Thank you.

Sincerely,

