**TN COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS**

**SURVIVING SPOUSE LEGIALATION FACT SHEET**

**April 2025**

**Please contact TN Council of Chapters, Surviving Spouse Liaison, if there are questions about the factsheet. Patricia can be reached by email/phone at** [**p\_bergq@hotmail.com**](mailto:p_bergq@hotmail.com) **or (615-948-4960).**

**ADVOCACY/LEGISLATION**

1. **H.R.2055 and S.611- “Caring for Survivors Act of 2025” sponsored by Rep. Johana Haynes (D-CT), Rep. Brian K. Fitzpatrick (PA-R) Sen. Richard Blumenthal (CT-D), and Sen. John Boozman (AR-R) are to expand Title 38, United States Code, to improve and expand eligibility for the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) paid by the VA to surviving spouses and others whose veteran died on active duty or from a service-related injury/illness.**

**This legislation would increase DIC from 43% of a single, 100% disabled veteran’s compensation to 55%. The 2025 DIC flat rate is $1,653.07 per month. Passage of these bills would mean an increase of $454 per month per recipient and increase the DIC flat rate to $2,107.07 per month.**

**Since 1993, DIC has only been increased by Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA). This increase is needed by not only our aging surviving spouses, but our young surviving spouses raising children alone due to active-duty death, service-connected death, and suicide! Per the VA, there are 506,492 DIC eligible surviving spouses as of December 31, 2024.**

**Also, the bills would lower the 10-year requirement for a 100% veterans’ rating to 5-years to award DIC for a non-service-connected death. Proportionate payments for 5-10 years of 100% rating.**

***H.R.2055 has 53 co-sponsors (1 TN: S. Cohen (TN-09)***

***S.611 as 1 co-sponsors (NONE* *from TN)***

1. **\H.R.1004 and S.410 - “Love Lives on Act 2025”, endorsed by over 50 Veteran Service Organizations, was introduced by Rep. Sen. Jerry Moran (KS-R) and Sen. Raphael Warnock (GA-D) with 22 original co-sponsors and Representatives Richard Hudson (NC-R), Joe Neguse (CO-D), Derrick Van Orden (WI-R), Kelly Morrison (MN-D), Morgan Luttrell (TX-R), and Ro Khanna (CA-D). Approximately 30,000 surviving spouse who receive benefits would be impacted positively by passage of this legislation.**

**Currently, surviving military spouses are not allowed to remarry before the arbitrary age of 55** **without losing ALL their benefits.**

**Specifically, we understand the bill allows the following:**

* **Allows retention of Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) through the Department of Defense at any age,**
* **Allows retention of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) upon remarriage at any age;**
* **Allows remarried surviving spouses to regain their TRICARE benefits if their marriage subsequently ends due to annulment, divorce, or death.**

**H.R.1004 has 45 *co-sponsors* (NONE from TN)**

**S.410 has 33 *co-sponsors* (NONE from TN)**