The Honorable Elaine Luria  
United States House of Representatives  
534 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC  20515

Dear Congresswoman Luria:

As leaders of the major veterans, military, and survivor organizations, we are pleased to offer our support for H.R. 2481, the *Gold Star Family Tax Relief Act.*

Surviving spouses of service members who die in the line of duty and military retirees who die from service-connected wounds, illnesses, or injuries are entitled to Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Survivors who paid into the Department of Defense Survivor Benefits Plan (SBP) have a dollar-for-dollar offset of their SBP benefits by the amount of DIC benefits. To avoid the SBP/DIC offset, surviving spouses often sign over SBP benefits to their children to ensure the family receives both earned benefits.

Due to a recent change in tax law, known as the “Kiddie Tax,” Gold Star families who were formerly obligated to pay 12 to 15 percent in taxes on their earned benefits are now being taxed up to 37 percent, leaving them thousands of dollars in tax debt. This important bill would rightfully repeal the Kiddie Tax and reinstate military survivor benefits to the previous tax rate.

Thank you again for your leadership on this issue. We look forward to working with you and your staff to pass this important legislation immediately.

Sincerely,

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States  
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors  
Gold Star Wives of America  
AMVETS

The American Legion  
National Military Family Association  
Military Officers Association of America  
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Keith A. Reed  
Air Force Sergeants Association

AMSUS, the Society of Federal Health Professionals

James J. Chirico  
Commissioned Officers Assn. of the US Public Health Service, Inc.

Norman Panashevics  
Jewish War Veterans of the USA

USCG Chief Petty Officers Assn.

Carol Setteducato  
Chief Warrant Officers Association of the US Coast Guard

Kathy Reil  
Non Commissioned Officers Assn. of the United States of America

Wounded Warrior Project

Army Aviation Association of America

Association of the United States Navy

Marine Corps Reserve Association

The Retired Enlisted Association