

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 26, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader McConnell,

We urge you to immediately bring up H.R. 1994, the SECURE Act, for consideration on the Senate floor. This bill contains an important provision that would repeal certain changes to tax rates for income passed onto children that have unduly burdened Gold Star families. Passing the SECURE Act would bring urgently-needed tax relief to Gold Star families.

Gold Star families are the immediate relatives of service members who died while serving their country. The federal government upholds its commitment to our troops and their families with two forms of compensation. The Department of Veterans Affairs' Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) and the Department of Defense's Survivor Benefits Plan (SBP) are intended to help families cope in the aftermath of their loss. Some surviving spouses of the fallen sign over their SBP benefits to their children to ensure the family receives all the benefits they have earned.

The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act changed how children's assets are taxed. According to the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, many Gold Star families saw their tax rate jump from 12-15% up to 37% on their SBP income. Many of us have spoken with surviving spouses or other family members in our districts suddenly struggling to pay their taxes.

Section 501 of the SECURE Act would solve this problem by repealing the section of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that raised taxes on certain kinds of benefits passed on to children.

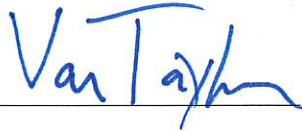
Without Congressional action, Gold Star families will continue to file their taxes under the current system, meaning many will pay tens of thousands of additional dollars in taxes on their SBP for the second year in a row. These families have already made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. Congress must act to prevent this unintended outcome before Gold Star families are again burdened unfairly. Passing the SECURE Act could deliver tax relief and certainty to Gold Star families in a matter of days.

Supporting the families of our fallen soldiers is an issue on which all Americans can agree. Our unity on this issue helps explain why the SECURE Act passed the House by an overwhelming vote of 417-3. The House has acted; now, it is the Senate's turn. We urge you to schedule a vote on the SECURE Act before the end of October.

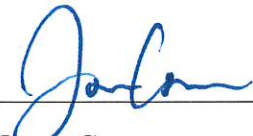
Sincerely,



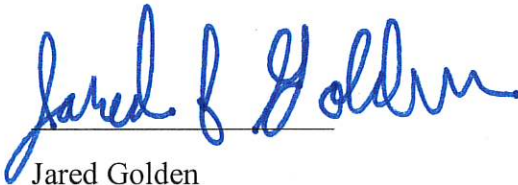
Elaine G. Luria
Member of Congress




Van Taylor
Member of Congress



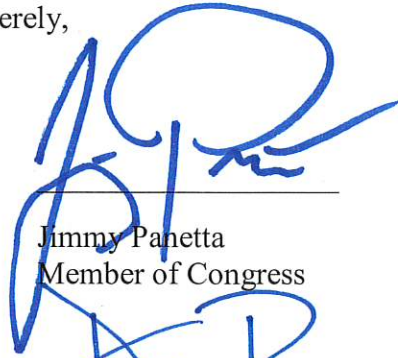
Jason Crow
Member of Congress



Jared Golden
Member of Congress



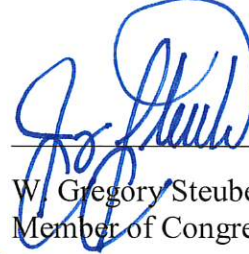
Max Rose
Member of Congress



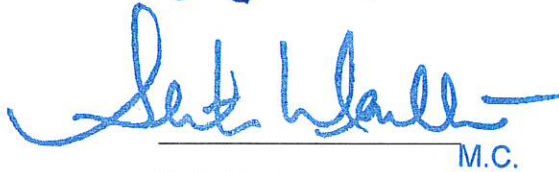
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Don Bacon
Member of Congress

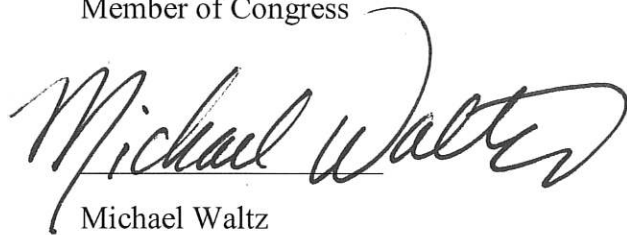


W. Gregory Steube
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Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

M.C.



Michael Waltz
Member of Congress