

May 22, 2019

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 T. Currie

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

Northern Rosenbergs

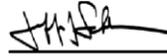
Jewish War Veterans of the USA



Non Commissioned Officers Assn. of the United States of America

Kathy Neil

USCG Chief Petty Officers Assn.



Army Aviation Association of America



Association of the United States Navy

Carol Setteducato

Chief Warrant Officers Association of the US Coast Guard



Marine Corps Reserve Association



The Retired Enlisted Association



Wounded Warrior Project