

11/7/2003 House Passes Legislation Expanding Benefits for Disabled and Retired Veterans

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More Veterans to be Eligible for Concurrent Receipt

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced the House passage of legislation to expand the number of military retirees eligible for both retirement and disability pay, known as concurrent receipt. This provision was included in the final bill for the Department of Defense authorization.

"With Veterans Day just around the corner, I am pleased that we have finally made some progress with concurrent receipt eligibility," Moran said. "The freedoms we enjoy are only possible because of the sacrifices of our soldiers and the support of their families. Even though this isn't a total victory for full concurrent receipt, this is a step in the right direction."

The provision will allow an additional 250,000 military retirees to be eligible for both their retirement and disability pay. Under current law, retired, disabled veterans' retirement pay is deducted, dollar for dollar, from any compensation received for a disability. The result is that many disabled military retirees essentially pay for their own disability benefits from their retirement checks.

"We should not only recognize the contributions of servicemen and women, but remember our responsibility to fulfill our commitments to veterans and their families," Moran concluded.

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