Getting a Letter to the Editor Published

Letters to the editor are a powerful way to raise awareness and show public support for the Major Richard Star Act. This guide helps you write and submit a letter highlighting your state's resolution and urging action at the federal level. Thank you for using your voice to stand up for the 54,000+ veterans impacted today — and those who will serve in the future.

HOW TO TAKE ACTION 5 SIMPLE STEPS

1. **Check the outlet's guidelines.** Visit your local media outlet's website and look for the Opinion or Community Voices section to find length and submission rules.
2. **Use our sample letter as a starting point.** Use the sample letter on the next page as a starting point. We strongly encourage you to personalize your message! Be sure to keep the focus on supporting the state resolution and the Major Richard Star Act.
3. **Personalize and include key details.**
   - Share your military service or connection to the military.
   - Include your state resolution's bill number and the number of veterans impacted in your state. You can find this information at **staractalliance.org/stateaction**.
   - After your signature in the letter, add your name, hometown, phone number (for verification), and email. This information is required but will not be published.
4. **Follow-up steps.** Editors may contact you to verify your identity. If you don't hear back after 7–10 days, send a polite follow-up.
5. **One outlet at a time.** Submit to only one outlet at a time. If it's not published after following up, you may submit to another outlet.

Sample Message.

Dear Editor,

Right now, thousands of combat-injured veterans nationwide, including more than **[Number]** here in **[State]**, lose a portion of their earned retirement pay simply because their injuries forced them to leave military service early. This unjust offset — often called a "wounded veteran tax" — penalizes those who sacrificed the most.

The Major Richard Star Act would correct this injustice by allowing these veterans to receive both their earned retirement pay and their VA disability compensation. The bill is bipartisan, long overdue, and widely supported.

Our state legislature has introduced **[State Resolution No. ____]** in support of the Major Richard Star Act. The introduction of this resolution sends a message beyond our statehouse: support for fixing this unfair policy is growing, and Congress should be paying attention. The people of **[State]** expect justice for our veterans and action on the Major Richard Star Act NOW!

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[City, State]

[Phone Number]

LET US KNOW YOU SUBMITTED A LETTER!

After sending your message, please email **info@staractalliance.org** with:

- A copy of your letter
- The name(s) of the outlet(s) you contacted

This helps us track momentum and coordinate advocacy nationwide.