Model State Resolution Template

(For Introduction in Any U.S. State Legislature)

TITLE

A Resolution urging the United States Congress to pass the Major Richard Star Act to ensure that veterans with disabilities receive their full Department of Defense retirement pay and Department of Veterans Affairs disability compensation without offset.

WHEREAS, the Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 2102, S. 1032) before the United States Congress seeks to amend federal law to expand eligibility for concurrent receipt of disability compensation and retirement pay for veterans, allowing eligible veterans to receive the full benefits they earned through their service and sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, current federal law requires a dollar-for-dollar offset of Department of Defense retirement pay for any veteran with a disability who was medically retired with fewer than twenty years of service, which denies veterans the full benefits they earned and creates significant financial hardship for approximately fifty thousand medically retired combat-wounded veterans nationwide ; and

WHEREAS, these veterans, including many who sustained combat-related injuries, lose on average more than one thousand dollars per month in earned benefits because of the offset, despite the fact that military retirement and disability benefits compensate for two distinct forms of service and sacrifice ; and

WHEREAS, the Major Richard Star Act has strong bipartisan support in Congress, including cosponsors from states across the nation, and has been endorsed by numerous veterans' service organizations for its role in correcting this longstanding inequity ; and

WHEREAS, veterans with disabilities and their families have advocated for the elimination of the offset due to the physical, psychological, and financial burdens it imposes, and have urged Congress to act swiftly to ensure full, earned compensation ; and

WHEREAS, [STATE] is home to thousands of veterans with disabilities who have served honorably and are impacted by the current offset policy, and the State Legislature recognizes the need to support these veterans by urging Congress to pass this important legislation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Legislature of the State of [STATE] urges the United States Congress to pass the Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 2102, S. 1032) to ensure that veterans with disabilities receive their full Department of Defense retirement pay and Department of Veterans Affairs disability compensation without offset; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, each Member of Congress representing [STATE], and to the author of this resolution for appropriate distribution.