

House Resolution 106 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 106

BY KAUFMANN, CROKEN, WICHTENDAHL, and AMOS JR.

1 A Resolution urging the members of Congress to support
2 the Major Richard Star Act to allow medically
3 retired service members to receive full access to
4 their much-deserved retirement pay and benefits.

5 WHEREAS, Major Richard Star was an Iraq and
6 Afghanistan veteran who, after exposure to burn pits
7 during his service, received a diagnosis of lung
8 cancer; and

9 WHEREAS, due to his diagnosis, Major Richard Star
10 was forced to retire before completing 20 years
11 of service and was therefore unable to collect his
12 retirement and disability benefits; and

13 WHEREAS, for every dollar of disability pay they
14 receive, veterans with less than 20 years of service
15 and a disability rating of less than 50 percent will
16 have their retirement pay reduced by a dollar; and

17 WHEREAS, an estimated 50,000 retired service members
18 are ineligible for concurrent benefits under the
19 current rules; and

20 WHEREAS, according to the Congressional Budget
21 Office, in 2022, the average offset was approximately
22 \$1,900 a month; and

23 WHEREAS, the Major Richard Star Act would remove
24 these restrictions and ensure that all service members
25 who have medically retired can receive full access
26 to retirement pay and department of veterans affairs
27 disability benefits; and

28 WHEREAS, after dying from his battle with lung

1 cancer in 2021, Major Richard Star's widow claimed
2 that his greatest goal was to get legislation passed
3 providing for the removal of these restrictions; and

4 WHEREAS, the United States owes these benefits to
5 its veterans regardless of the cost associated with
6 their allocation; NOW THEREFORE,

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, That
8 the House of Representatives urges the Congress of the
9 United States to support the Major Richard Star Act
10 to allow medically retired service members to receive
11 full access to their much-deserved retirement and pay
12 benefits; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of
14 Representatives call upon our colleagues in the Senate
15 to urge the Congress of the United States to support
16 the Major Richard Star Act; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage of
18 this resolution, the Chief Clerk of the House
19 of Representatives shall transmit copies of this
20 resolution to the President of the United States
21 Senate, the Speaker of the United States House
22 of Representatives, and each member of Iowa's
23 congressional delegation.