Support the Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act

Rep. John Garamendi (Calif.) introduced the "Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act" (H.R. 2214) that would authorize the retention of the full final month's retired pay by the surviving spouse (or other designated survivor) for the month in which the member was alive for at least 24 hours.

Surviving spouses who are unaware that the Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS) should be notified immediately on the death of the military retiree are surprised to learn of this requirement. Those who had joint bank accounts, in which retirement payments were made electronically, gave little if any thought that DFAS could swoop down and recoup any overpayments of retirement pay from such accounts. This action could easily clear the account of any funds remaining whether they were retirement payments or money from other sources. Instead of withdrawing the payment all at once, the bill would allow a gradual repayment over 12 months and gives the Secretary of Defense the option to forgive the over payment.

Please use the Action Center to ask your Representative to support this important legislation.

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