

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

5 WHEREAS, the Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 2102, S. 1032) is proposed
6 bipartisan legislation in 119th Congress that seeks to amend federal law to expand
7 eligibility for concurrent receipt of disability compensation and retirement pay for
8 veterans; and

9 WHEREAS, current federal law requires a dollar-for-dollar offset of disability
10 compensation and retirement pay for a veteran with a disability who was medically
11 retired with fewer than 20 years of service, denying them the full benefits they earned
12 through their service and sacrifice; and

13 WHEREAS, approximately 50,000 veterans with disabilities, including those who
14 sustained combat-related injuries, are affected by this offset, resulting in significant
15 financial hardship, with an average loss of approximately \$1,900 per month in earned
16 benefits based on 2022 estimates from the Congressional Budget Office; and

17 WHEREAS, the Major Richard Star Act aims to correct this injustice by allowing
18 an eligible veteran with a disability to receive both his or her full United States
19 Department of Defense retirement pay and United States Department of Veterans Affairs
20 disability compensation concurrently; and

21 WHEREAS, the bill has garnered significant bipartisan support in Congress with
22 substantial co-sponsorship in both the House of Representatives and the Senate; and

23 WHEREAS, Kentucky is home to approximately 285,000 veterans, one of the
24 larger veteran populations in the nation, with many veterans with disabilities who have
25 served honorably and who are impacted by the current offset policy; and

26 WHEREAS, more than 50 veterans' organizations, including the Wounded Warrior
27 Project, the American Legion, and AMVETS (American Veterans), have endorsed the

1 Major Richard Star Act, highlighting its importance in ensuring a veteran with a
2 disability receives the benefits he or she rightfully earned; and

3 WHEREAS, Congress has a duty to care for veterans with disabilities by ensuring
4 they receive the support and benefits earned through their service; and

5 WHEREAS, veterans with disabilities have advocated for the elimination of this
6 offset, underscoring the physical, psychological, and financial burdens they face due to
7 the current policy; and

8 WHEREAS, the Major Richard Star Act aligns with the nation's commitment to
9 honor and support all veterans, including those in Kentucky, by ensuring they receive the
10 full benefits they earned through their service, regardless of their length of service; and

11 WHEREAS, the General Assembly recognizes the urgent need to address this
12 injustice and support veterans with disabilities who have sacrificed for our nation;

13 NOW, THEREFORE,

14 ***Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

15 ➔Section 1. The General Assembly of Kentucky hereby urges the United States
16 Congress to pass the Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 2102, S. 1032) to ensure veterans with
17 disabilities receive their full United States Department of Defense retirement pay and
18 United States Department of Veterans Affairs disability compensation without offset.

19 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
20 Resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the
21 United States House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate,
22 members of the Kentucky congressional delegation, and to sponsor and co-sponsors of
23 this Resolution for distribution.