

The Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefits Expansion Act of 2025

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
CHAIRMAN MIKE BOST

EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT

The American Legion

“The American Legion supports the proposed Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefits Expansion Act. If passed, the bill would see Dependency and Indemnity Compensation and Special Monthly Compensation increase for the first time in decades. This would help veteran families and caregivers maintain financial stability and peace of mind during the veteran’s life and beyond. Although The Legion supports the overall package, we are concerned the proposed offset could bring unintended consequences. The reality is that increasing funding fees for VA home loans has been the only mechanism to pay for new or increased veteran-related programs in past years. But expanding the population of veterans required to pay funding fees on subsequent VA Home Loans sets a new precedent. The American Legion is committed to working with Congress to improve the bill as it moves through the legislative process. We have long advocated for increases to DIC & SMC pay and don’t want to see this opportunity wasted.” – **Mario A. Marquez, Executive Director of Government Affairs, The American Legion**

Wounded Warrior Project (WWP)

“Wounded Warrior Project commends Congress for recognizing the needs of our most severely wounded veterans and the survivors of those who died from service-connected injuries. We support provisions of the Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefits Expansion Act, specifically its proposals to increase Special Monthly Compensation (SMC) by \$10,000 per year and to increase Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) by 0.5% annually (plus COLA) which are important and much-needed steps. These changes would provide meaningful financial support to those who have sacrificed the most. We are committed to working with Congress to ensure that veterans’ interests are protected and strongly considered as the provisions to fund these improvements are finalized.”

Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)

“No one appreciates the full scope of benefits provided by the VA more than our nation’s paralyzed veterans. Living with significant disabilities is not just difficult, it’s costly, and there are a wide range of additional expenses that can significantly impact a person's financial well-being. PVA supports this effort to increase the amounts of Special Monthly Compensation for veterans with service-connected catastrophic disabilities and raise Dependency and Indemnity Compensation for survivors. We thank Rep. Barrett for introducing this bill and appreciate his efforts to address the needs of veterans with significant disabilities and their families.”

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)

“For more than 30 years, surviving spouses and severely disabled veterans have been left behind by outdated benefit structures. The Vietnam Veterans of America stands firmly behind this legislation, which honors the legacy of sacrifice by ensuring survivors, dependents, and catastrophically injured veterans finally see the benefits expansion they deserve.” - **Thomas Burke, National President, Vietnam Veterans of America**

AMVETS

"AMVETS is pleased to support the Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefits Expansion Act. For several years, AMVETS has made the expansion of survivor benefits a top legislative priority. This bill represents meaningful progress, and we look forward to working with Congress to ensure that the families of our fallen heroes, our most severely disabled veterans, and their caregivers receive the benefits they have earned through sacrifice and service." – **Joe Chenelly, National Executive Director, AMVETS**

Elizabeth Dole Foundation (EDF)

"The Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefits Expansion Act is a landmark measure to support America's most vulnerable veterans and their hidden heroes – the caregivers who stand by them every day. Too many veteran families face a devastating financial cliff when their loved one passes away, and too many catastrophically injured veterans and their families shoulder impossible costs without adequate support. This legislation recognizes their sacrifice and offers a long overdue first step to providing the relief, stability, and dignity they have long deserved." – **Steve Schwab, CEO, Elizabeth Dole Foundation**

Gold Star Spouses

"Gold Star Spouses of America proudly supports the Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefits Expansion Act. For too long, the families of America's fallen heroes and catastrophically injured veterans have been left behind without meaningful increases in benefits. We are especially proud that Sharri Briley, a dedicated member of our organization, has lent her name and her voice to this effort. By expanding support for surviving spouses, caregivers, and severely disabled veterans, Congress has the opportunity to deliver long-overdue relief to more than 700,000 families who have given everything in service to this nation. We urge swift passage of this historic legislation to ensure that no survivor or family ever has to wonder if their sacrifice has been forgotten." – **Tamra Sipes, National President, Gold Star Spouses of America**

Military Order of the Purple Heart USA

"This legislation finally delivers long-overdue justice for the families of our fallen heroes and the caregivers of our catastrophically injured veterans. The Brileys, the Edmundsons, and thousands of others have carried the weight of sacrifice for decades. The *Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefits Expansion Act* ensures they receive the support and dignity they have earned." - **James McCormick, Past National Commander, Military Order of the Purple Heart USA**

National Association of County Veterans Service Officers (NACVSO)

"The National Association of County Veterans Service Officers (NACVSO) is proud to support Congressman Tom Barrett's legislation that seeks to improve benefits for surviving families and catastrophically injured veterans. The Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefit Expansion Act would increase the benefit amount that a veteran's surviving dependent receives when that veteran dies from a service-related injury or illness. Unfortunately, surviving families are all too often forgotten, which is evidenced by the fact this benefit has not been increased outside of inflation since 1993. As a county we not only have an obligation to "care for him who shall have borne the battle" but also for their "widow, and his orphan". NACVSO appreciates Congressman Barrett's leadership on this, and we hope this commonsense legislation passes without issue."

Independence Fund

"The Independence Fund supports the passage of the Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefits Expansion Act of 2025. Passage of this legislation will reduce the financial burden catastrophically disabled veterans and surviving spouses often face by increasing the amount of Special Monthly Compensation and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation veterans and survivors can receive."

Quality of Life Foundation

"Quality of Life Foundation is proud to express our strong support for the passage of the Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefits Expansion Act. This critical legislation would enhance and expand survivors' benefits, addressing longstanding disparities between VA's Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) program and other federal survivors' programs. Many of the caregivers we serve are eligible for DIC after the veteran they care for passes away; however, this benefit has not historically matched the level of support provided through other federal programs. We commend the Department of Veterans Affairs and members of Congress for recognizing this inequity and taking action to correct it. Furthermore, veterans living with catastrophic traumatic brain injuries, along with their caregivers, often incur substantial out-of-pocket expenses each year. The increased compensation provided by this legislation would directly offset those costs and significantly improve the quality of life for these families. For these reasons, the Quality of Life Foundation wholeheartedly supports the Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefits Expansion Act and urges its swift passage."

Veterans MS Alliance

"The Veterans MS Alliance is proud to support the Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefits Expansion Act. For too long, catastrophically injured veterans, their caregivers, and surviving families have faced immense challenges without the resources they deserve. This bill will help deliver meaningful support and relief, ensuring veterans and their loved ones can live with dignity. As an organization committed to supporting veterans living with multiple sclerosis and other life-changing conditions, we see this legislation as a critical step in honoring their service and strengthening the systems meant to care for them."

**As of October 6, 2025*