

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9974

To amend title 10, United States Code, to expand the health care benefits available for Gold Star surviving spouses.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 11, 2024

Ms. KAPTUR (for herself and Mr. BACON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to expand the health care benefits available for Gold Star surviving spouses.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Gold Star Spouses
5 Health Care Enhancement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF HEALTH CARE BENEFITS FOR GOLD**
7 **STAR SURVIVING SPOUSES.**

8 (a) MEDICAL BENEFITS.—Section 1079(g) of title
9 10, United States Code, is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (2), by inserting “except as
2 provided by paragraph (5),” after “benefits under
3 paragraph (1),”; and

4 (2) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the
5 following:

6 “(5)(A) A dependent described in subparagraph (B)
7 shall not be subject to the three-year time limit specified
8 in paragraph (2) with respect to eligibility for benefits
9 under TRICARE Prime.

10 “(B) A dependent described in this subparagraph is
11 a dependent for purposes of section 1072 of this title by
12 reason of being a surviving spouse of a member of the
13 armed forces whose death is covered by section 1126.”.

14 (b) DENTAL BENEFITS.—Section 1076a(k) of such
15 title is amended—

16 (1) in paragraph (3), by striking “Such term”
17 and inserting “Except as provided by paragraph (4),
18 such term”; and

19 (2) by adding after paragraph (3) the following:

20 “(4)(A) A dependent described in subparagraph (B)
21 shall not be subject to the three-year time limit specified
22 in paragraph (3).

23 “(B) A dependent described in this subparagraph is
24 a dependent for purposes of section 1072 of this title by

1 reason of being a surviving spouse of a member of the
2 armed forces whose death is covered by section 1126.”.

3 (c) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by this
4 section shall apply with respect to a surviving spouse of
5 a member of the Armed Forces whose death is covered
6 by section 1126 of title 10, United States Code, regardless
7 of whether such death occurred before the date of the en-
8 actment of this Act.

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