



(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense to carry out programs to provide to certain veterans who are women a compensation benefit and an upgrade to the discharge status of such veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. BROWNLEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense to carry out programs to provide to certain veterans who are women a compensation benefit and an upgrade to the discharge status of such veterans, and for other purposes.

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 “Women Involuntarily
5 Separated Earning Remittance Act of 2024” or the
6 “WISER Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION BENEFIT**
2 **AND DISCHARGE STATUS UPGRADES FOR**
3 **CERTAIN VETERANS WHO ARE WOMEN DIS-**
4 **CHARGED PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER**
5 **10240.**

6 (a) DISCHARGE STATUS UPGRADE PROGRAM.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability
8 of amounts made available in advance in appropria-
9 tions Acts, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in co-
10 ordination with the Secretary of Defense, shall es-
11 tablish and carry out a program to, subject to the
12 eligibility criteria under subsection (c) and condi-
13 tions to be prescribed by the Secretary of Defense,
14 upgrade the discharge status of covered veterans.

15 (2) APPLICATIONS.—A covered veteran desiring
16 to participate in such program shall submit to the
17 Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of
18 Defense an application in such form, at such time,
19 and containing such information and assurances as
20 such Secretaries determine appropriate.

21 (3) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN COVERED VET-
22 ERANS.—With respect to the provision of benefits
23 under the laws administered by the Secretary of Vet-
24 erans Affairs, such Secretary shall treat a covered
25 veteran who receives a discharge status upgrade pur-
26 suant to such program as if such covered veteran

1 completed the duty to which such covered veteran
2 was assigned at the time such covered veteran was
3 separated from active military, naval, air, or space
4 service.

5 (b) COMPENSATION BENEFIT PROGRAM.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense
7 shall establish and carry out a program to provide
8 to covered veterans, subject to the eligibility criteria
9 under subsection (c) and paragraph (2), a one-time
10 compensation benefit in the amount of \$25,000.

11 (2) SURVIVING SPOUSE ELIGIBILITY.—If a cov-
12 ered veteran who satisfies the eligibility criteria
13 under subsection (c) dies after the date of the enact-
14 ment of this Act, the surviving spouse of such cov-
15 ered veteran shall be eligible for participation in the
16 program under paragraph (1).

17 (3) APPLICATIONS.—A covered veteran, or the
18 surviving spouse of a covered veteran, desiring to
19 participate in such program shall submit to the Sec-
20 retary of Defense an application in such form, at
21 such time, and containing such information and as-
22 surances as the Secretary determines appropriate.

23 (4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
24 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-

1 retary of Defense such sums as may be necessary to
2 carry out this subsection.

3 (c) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.—

4 (1) IRREBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION.—There is
5 an irrebuttable presumption of eligibility for partici-
6 pation in the programs under subsections (a) and
7 (b) for a covered veteran who was involuntarily sepa-
8 rated from active military, naval, air, or space serv-
9 ice pursuant to Executive Order 10240.

10 (2) REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTIONS.—There is a
11 rebuttable presumption for eligibility for participa-
12 tion in such programs for a covered veteran who—

13 (A) gave birth to a child, obtained legal or
14 physical custody of a child, or adopted a child
15 during the 10-month period beginning after the
16 date the veteran was separated from active mili-
17 tary, naval, air, or space service; or

18 (B) experienced an incomplete pregnancy
19 (including due to an abortion or miscarriage)
20 during such 10-month period.

21 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (1) The term “active military, naval, air, or
23 space service” has the meaning given such term in
24 section 101 of title 10, United States Code.

1 (2) The term “covered veteran” means a vet-
2 eran who—
3 (A) is a woman; and
4 (B) performed active military, naval, air,
5 or space service during the period beginning on
6 April 27, 1951 and ending on February 23,
7 1976.