



## ***Gold Star Wives of America, Inc***

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January 21, 2014

The Honorable Bernard Sanders  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs

The Honorable Richard Burr  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs

Senator Sanders and Senator Burr:

On behalf of Gold Star Wives Of America, Inc. (GSW) we proudly endorse S. 1950, the Comprehensive Veterans Benefits and Military Pay Restoration Act of 2014.

As you know, GSW has worked with the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs on a number of important issues which affect our members, and we were honored to be asked for input on this important bill. Strengthening benefits and services for surviving spouses and children has been, and continues to be, the primary focus of GSW, and S. 1950 makes great gains in this effort.

GSW testified last year on the need to provide additional Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) for surviving spouses with children and the need to expand Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship to include surviving spouses of members of the Armed Forces who die on active duty. We are pleased that members of this committee agreed and language was added to S. 1950 to make surviving spouses eligible for Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits.

Finally, we applaud your efforts to address the needs of surviving spouses in this bill. We are very much in support of S. 1950 and we look forward to working with this committee on other important issues.

Sincerely,

Carol Ellinger

//s//

Carol Ellinger  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.

Harriet Boyden

//s//

Harriet Boyden  
President  
Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.

