

**Testimony of Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland  
Before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
June 22, 2023**

Chairman Bost, Ranking Member Takano, and members of this distinguished Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today about the importance of fully supporting our veterans and their families.

Our nation is built by the bravery, dedication, and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform. As a daughter of a veteran, I understand the many challenges veterans experience. It is an imperative that we fairly compensate and care for those who served.

The Department of Veterans Affairs provides essential services to our veterans and their families. Both currently serving and veteran families often rely on the single income of their serving family member, in many cases for the better part of their lives. Adequate life insurance policies are essential to ensuring our military families have the financial security they need to navigate the loss of a loved one with dignity. For nearly two decades the maximum coverage of the Servicemembers Group Life Insurance and Veterans' Group Life Insurance programs remained stagnant, even as the cost of housing, goods, and services rose. Therefore, I strongly urge the Committee on Veterans Affairs to consider H.R. 2911, the Fairness for Servicemembers and their Families Act of 2023. This bill would ensure that the Servicemembers Group Life Insurance and Veterans' Group Life Insurance programs are periodically reviewed, and that their value sufficiently reflects the contemporary consumer price index.

Thank you for your longstanding support of veterans and their families, and for the work you do to provide for their care. I look forward to working with you to help better protect their financial security.