

**United States House of Representatives  
Statement of the Honorable Corrine Brown  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Veterans' Affairs**

**Statement in Support of**

**The Final Farewell Act and The Love Lives on Act**

- Thank you, Mr. Chairman for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the important bills under consideration today.
- In particular I am pleased that we will be considering a bill H.R. 3715, The Final Farewell Act that is of great importance to my constituents.

- While VA has the authority to provide weekend services to veterans and their families, they rarely do.
- This has been a particular challenge for various religions and cultures who bury their loved ones on Saturdays.
- Just two weeks ago I attended a funeral service on a Saturday then had to wait along with the family until Monday to bury the loved one because the cemetery would not bury the service member on Saturday.

- This compounded stress, from losing a loved one and being forced to break with tradition, is unnecessary.
- My legislation, The Final Farewell Act, will make it easier for families with religious and cultural traditions to bury their loved ones at a time that works for them.
- Our veterans deserve to have this common sense convenience.
- Thank you for your consideration H.R. 3715 and the support of this common sense change.

- Another bill that I am very proud to have introduced, is The Love Lives on Act.
- I had the opportunity to host our surviving spouses at a roundtable last November.
- I heard them loud and clear, follow the United Kingdom's lead and eliminate the age restriction on remarriage!
- What many may not know is that our current law is discouraging widowed spouses of our most valiant servicemembers from remarrying.

- The U.K. noted that many of these spouses are in committed relationships but refrain from marriage to retain this income.
- The right thing to do is clear and I hope to have my colleagues support.
- Lastly, I would like to voice serious concern for the legislative proposal from Chairman Miller that would pay two lump sum payments of \$10,000 for those who lose their use of a creative organ.

- This legislation is trying to address a health issue by offering cash instead of needed timely treatment and I strongly oppose it.
- I believe a better alternative and compromise, is the language that has been agreed to in a **bi-partisan manner**, is the agreement struck by the Senate to provide these veterans with healthcare.
- This language is very similar to language proposed last year by Chairman Miller and in concept I support that.
- Being able to have a family is an important step toward healing our veterans and their

families. I committed to working to find way  
to make that happen.