

**Testimony of Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland
Before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
April 10, 2024**

Chairman Luttrell, Ranking Member Pappas, and members of this distinguished Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit a statement supporting critical legislation that benefits our active duty servicemembers, Veterans, and their families.

I write today in support of my bill, H.R. 2911, the Fairness for Servicemembers and their Families Act of 2023, which will help ensure that life insurance packages for servicemembers and veterans account for changes in the economy. This legislation will require the Department of Veterans Affairs to periodically review and report on the maximum coverage available under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance and Veterans' Group Life Insurance.

Our servicemembers courageously put their lives on the line for their country, and it is our duty to reciprocate. This means ensuring the well-being of their families and loved ones in the event of a tragedy. The importance of servicemembers' life insurance plans keeping pace with economic demands cannot be overstated. A robust life insurance policy will provide grieving families the security they need to navigate the loss of their loved ones with pride and dignity.

The brave men and women who sacrifice their lives deserve peace of mind in knowing that their families are able to take care of final expenses and carry on their legacy. As a daughter of a veteran, I understand the many challenges veterans experience. It is imperative that we ensure those who serve can provide a sense of security for their families.

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. This bill, H.R. 2911, will ensure that these programs are

reviewed periodically to verify that their value sufficiently reflects contemporary consumer price index.

Chairman Luttrell, Ranking Member Pappas, and esteemed members of this distinguished Committee, thank you for your unwavering commitment to supporting veterans and their families and for prioritizing their care.