

# County of Monterey



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May 15, 2023

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren  
1401 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: H.R. 1083, Caring for Survivors Act – SUPPORT**

Dear Congresswoman Lofgren:

On behalf of the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our support for the Caring for Survivors Act (H.R. 1083). This bipartisan legislation would adjust monthly benefits for family members and survivors of veterans who lost their lives in service to our country.

The Caring for Survivors Act would ease the eligibility criteria for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) to allow additional survivors to receive the benefit and increase the monthly benefit amount to match benefits provided by other federal survivor programs. Specifically, the measure would:

- Expand eligibility for DIC by replacing the “10-year” rule with a graduated scale of benefits that begins at five years for initial eligibility at 50% and gradually reaches the full benefit 10 years after determination of disability. For example, if a veteran is rated totally disabled for five years and dies of a non-service-connected cause, a survivor would be entitled to 50% of the DIC benefit.
- Increase the amount of DIC to 55% of the rate of monthly compensation received by a totally disabled veteran.

The rate of compensation paid to survivors of service members who die in the line of duty or veterans who die from service-related injuries or diseases was established in 1993. It has only been minimally adjusted since that time.

Additionally, benefits are currently restricted for survivors if the veteran was disabled for less than 10 years before death. The legislation would reduce the 10-year time frame a veteran needs to be rated totally disabled to five years, broadening eligibility to more survivors and alleviating additional burdens on family members during their time of loss.

We appreciate your support for our veteran’s community in Monterey County, and we thank you for cosponsoring H.R. 1083, the Caring for Survivors Act.

Sincerely,

Luis A. Alejo, Chair  
Board of Supervisors

Cc: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Senator  
The Honorable Alex Padilla, U.S. Senator  
The Honorable Jimmy Panetta, 19<sup>th</sup> Congressional District