

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 9725

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense to carry out programs to provide to certain veterans who are women a compensation benefit and an upgrade to the discharge status of such veterans, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

Ms. BROWNLEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense to carry out programs to provide to certain veterans who are women a compensation benefit and an upgrade to the discharge status of such veterans, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Women Involuntarily  
5       Separated Earning Remittance Act of 2024” or the  
6       “WISER Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION BENEFIT**  
2 **AND DISCHARGE STATUS UPGRADES FOR**  
3 **CERTAIN VETERANS WHO ARE WOMEN DIS-**  
4 **CHARGED PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER**  
5 **10240.**

6 (a) DISCHARGE STATUS UPGRADE PROGRAM.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of  
8 amounts made available in advance in appropriations  
9 Acts, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in coordina-  
10 tion with the Secretary of Defense, shall establish  
11 and carry out a program to, subject to the eligibility  
12 criteria under subsection (c) and conditions to be  
13 prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, upgrade the  
14 discharge status of covered veterans.

15 (2) APPLICATIONS.—A covered veteran desiring  
16 to participate in such program shall submit to the  
17 Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of  
18 Defense an application in such form, at such time,  
19 and containing such information and assurances as  
20 such Secretaries determine appropriate.

21 (3) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN COVERED VET-  
22 ERANS.—With respect to the provision of benefits  
23 under the laws administered by the Secretary of Vet-  
24 erans Affairs, such Secretary shall treat a covered  
25 veteran who receives a discharge status upgrade pur-  
26 suant to such program as if such covered veteran

1 completed the duty to which such covered veteran  
2 was assigned at the time such covered veteran was  
3 separated from active military, naval, air, or space  
4 service.

5 (b) COMPENSATION BENEFIT PROGRAM.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense  
7 shall establish and carry out a program to provide  
8 to covered veterans, subject to the eligibility criteria  
9 under subsection (c) and paragraph (2), a one-time  
10 compensation benefit in the amount of \$25,000.

11 (2) SURVIVING SPOUSE ELIGIBILITY.—If a cov-  
12 ered veteran who satisfies the eligibility criteria  
13 under subsection (c) dies after the date of the enact-  
14 ment of this Act, the surviving spouse of such cov-  
15 ered veteran shall be eligible for participation in the  
16 program under paragraph (1).

17 (3) APPLICATIONS.—A covered veteran, or the  
18 surviving spouse of a covered veteran, desiring to  
19 participate in such program shall submit to the Sec-  
20 retary of Defense an application in such form, at  
21 such time, and containing such information and as-  
22 surances as the Secretary determines appropriate.

23 (4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

24 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-

1       retary of Defense such sums as may be necessary to  
2       carry out this subsection.

3       (c) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.—

4           (1) IRREBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION.—There is  
5       an irrebuttable presumption of eligibility for partici-  
6       pation in the programs under subsections (a) and  
7       (b) for a covered veteran who was involuntarily sepa-  
8       rated from active military, naval, air, or space serv-  
9       ice pursuant to Executive Order 10240.

10          (2) REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTIONS.—There is a  
11       rebuttable presumption for eligibility for participa-  
12       tion in such programs for a covered veteran who—

13           (A) gave birth to a child, obtained legal or  
14       physical custody of a child, or adopted a child  
15       during the 10-month period beginning after the  
16       date the veteran was separated from active mili-  
17       tary, naval, air, or space service; or

18           (B) experienced an incomplete pregnancy  
19       (including due to an abortion or miscarriage)  
20       during such 10-month period.

21       (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22           (1) The term “active military, naval, air, or  
23       space service” has the meaning given such term in  
24       section 101 of title 10, United States Code.

1           (2) The term “covered veteran” means a vet-  
2       eran who—

3           (A) is a woman; and

4           (B) performed active military, naval, air,  
5       or space service during the period beginning on  
6       April 27, 1951 and ending on February 23,  
7       1976.

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