

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4403

To amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize space-available travel on military aircraft for unremarried surviving spouses of retired members of the uniformed services and the unremarried surviving spouses of veterans who died from a service-connected or compensable disability, and for the dependents of such spouses.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 16, 2009

Mr. WALZ (for himself, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. BUYER, and Mr. FILNER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Securing Patriots Ac-
3 cess to Convenient and Economic Air Travel Act of 2009”
4 or “SPACE–A Travel Act of 2009”.

5 **SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY OF UNREMARIED SURVIVING**
6 **SPOUSES OF DECEASED RETIRED MEMBERS**
7 **AND CERTAIN OTHER VETERANS FOR SPACE-**
8 **AVAILABLE TRAVEL ON MILITARY AIRCRAFT.**

9 (a) **ELIGIBILITY.**—Chapter 157 of title 10, United
10 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2641b
11 the following new section:

12 **“§ 2641c. Space-available travel on Department of De-**
13 **fense aircraft: unremarried surviving**
14 **spouses of deceased retired members and**
15 **certain other veterans; dependents**

16 “(a) **UNREMARIED SURVIVING SPOUSES.**—(1) The
17 unremarried surviving spouse of a retired member of the
18 uniformed services shall be provided transportation on De-
19 partment of Defense aircraft, on a space-available basis,
20 on the same basis as a spouse of a retired member.

21 “(2) The unremarried surviving spouse of a former
22 member of the uniformed services who is entitled to de-
23 pendency and indemnity compensation under section 1311
24 of title 38 shall be provided transportation on Department
25 of Defense aircraft, on a space-available basis, on the same
26 basis as a spouse of a retired member. The Secretary of

1 Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans
2 Affairs, shall develop an effective method to identify sur-
3 viving spouses eligible for transportation under this para-
4 graph.

5 “(b) DEPENDENTS.—The dependent of a surviving
6 spouse described in subsection (a) who is accompanied by
7 the surviving spouse shall be provided transportation on
8 Department of Defense aircraft, on a space-available
9 basis, on the same basis as the surviving spouse.

10 “(c) EXCEPTION TO SPONSOR ACCOMPANIMENT RE-
11 QUIREMENT.—The requirement that dependents of a re-
12 tired member be accompanied by the sponsoring member
13 in order to receive space-available transportation shall not
14 apply to transportation provided under this section.”.

15 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
16 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
17 after the item relating to section 2641b the following new
18 item:

“2641c. Space-available travel on Department of Defense aircraft: unremarried
surviving spouses of deceased retired members and certain
other veterans; dependents.”.

