

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1047

To amend title 38, United States Code, to create a dependency and indemnity compensation allowance for surviving spouses receiving dependency and indemnity compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 4, 2019

Mr. TESTER (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to create a dependency and indemnity compensation allowance for surviving spouses receiving dependency and indemnity compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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 “Dependency and In-  
5 demnity Compensation Improvement Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION AL-**  
 2 **LOWANCE FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES RECEIV-**  
 3 **ING DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COM-**  
 4 **PENSATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF**  
 5 **VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

6 (a) ALLOWANCE.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 13  
 8 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by in-  
 9 serting after section 1311 the following new section:

10 **“§ 1311A. Dependency and indemnity compensation**  
 11 **allowance for surviving spouses**

12 “A dependency and indemnity compensation allow-  
 13 ance shall be paid to a surviving spouse who is entitled  
 14 to receive dependency and indemnity compensation under  
 15 section 1311(a) of this title at the monthly rate equal to  
 16 the amount by which—

17 “(1) the amount that is 55 percent of the rate  
 18 of monthly compensation in effect under section  
 19 1114(j) of this title, exceeds

20 “(2) the amount of dependency and indemnity  
 21 compensation the surviving spouse is entitled to re-  
 22 ceive under section 1311(a) of this title.”.

23 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
 24 tions at the beginning of chapter 13 of such title is  
 25 amended by inserting after the item relating to sec-  
 26 tion 1311 the following new item:

“1311A. Dependency and indemnity compensation allowance for surviving spouses.”.

1       (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in section  
2 1311A of such title, as added by subsection (a)(1), shall  
3 be construed to have an effect on any amount of payment  
4 under section 1450 of title 10, United States Code.

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