

e. If your child(ren) is (are) defined by item b or d above, an affidavit to that effect signed by the registrar or physician, respectively, must be furnished to Retired Pay Operations, USAFAC.

Definition of natural person with insurable interest. Any person who can reasonably expect financial benefit from you while you live may be considered as a natural person with an insurable interest. This person may be any close relative such as a child not dependent upon you for support, or a close business associate. If person named is not more nearly related than cousin, attach a statement of Proof of Financial Benefit.

SECTION VIII—MONTHLY COST AND AMOUNT OF SURVIVOR ANNUITY

Spouse only (no eligible children). Cost of coverage is 2½ percent of the first \$300, plus 10 percent of any designated retired pay in excess of \$300. If coverage is elected for a dependent child acquired subsequent to retirement, cost of coverage will be increased. The increase in cost is effective the first day of the month following eligibility of such child. (See c. below.)

Spouse and eligible children. The cost of coverage will be 2½ percent of the first \$300 of the base amount plus 10 percent of the remainder plus a slight additional charge for children's coverage that will vary depending on your age, your wife's age, and the age of your youngest child. The additional charge should generally be about one-half of one percent of the amount of retired pay designated. (See c below.)

If your spouse becomes ineligible through divorce, annulment or death, no cost is due for any month in which there is no beneficiary. If you remarry, the cost will be reinstated the first anniversary of the date of remarriage, unless child is born of that marriage prior to the first anniversary date.

Eligible children only (no spouse). The cost of coverage will vary depending on your age and the age of your youngest child but should generally be about 3 percent of the amount of retired pay designated.

Cost reduction—children. When all children cease to be eligible for an annuity, the additional cost for child coverage shall stop. The reduction in cost is effective the first day of the month following that in which the last child ceases to be eligible for an annuity.

Natural interest person. Cost of coverage is 10 percent of full retired pay, plus an additional 5 percent of full retired pay for each full five years that your age exceeds that of the natural interest person. The total cost may not exceed 40 percent of retired pay.

Annuity—Spouse and/or eligible children. Full coverage provides an annuity of 55 percent of retired pay. Reduced coverage provides an annuity of 55 percent of reduced amount elected.

Annuity—Natural interest person. The annuity payable is 55 percent of retired pay remaining after cost of coverage has been subtracted.

Cost-of-Living Increase (CLI). The cost is subject to change based on CLI's in retired pay. Annuities paid to survivors of deceased members are also CLI adjusted.

CONTINUATION OF ITEM 10, SECTION IV.

NAME (LAST, FIRST, MI)	DATE OF BIRTH	SOCIAL SECURITY NO.	RELATIONSHIP

DATA REQUIRED BY THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974

Authority: Public Law 92-425, EO 9397 as amended.

Principal Purpose(s): Used by members retired on or before 13 August 1981, to enroll in

the Survivor Benefit Plan or increase previously elected coverage.

Routine Uses: Uniformed Services review form for completeness, validate and record level of participation.

Disclosure Is Voluntary: However, the information transmitted in this form is necessary to administer the above law. Without it, retirees could not change their previous elections.

Under this law you have a choice to either participate or not to participate in the Survivor Benefit Plan. If you choose to participate, you have a further choice as to what type of coverage you desire. Under one option, only a SPOUSE is to receive a survivor benefit annuity, under another option, only a CHILD or CHILDREN are to receive annuity payments, and under a third option a CHILD or CHILDREN plus a SPOUSE are to receive annuity payments.

To assist you in making your election whether to participate, data are shown below to permit you to determine your actual participation costs. PLEASE note that the "COST" shown below is based on the provision of the law whereby only the SPOUSE is to receive a survivor's annuity and this annuity, equal to 55% of your gross retired pay, is the maximum annuity for a spouse. Costs for providing annuity benefits to children where there is no spouse or for benefits to children in addition to the benefits for a spouse, have not been computed. Costs for any optional provision of the law may be approximated using the formula provided in the Retired Army Bulletin. Actual cost of annuities will be actuarially computed in each case as required.

If your retired pay exceeds \$300 per month, the cost of Survivor Benefit Plan to you is arrived at by charging 2½% against the first \$300 of your retired pay and 10% of any amount over \$300. This will provide for a maximum annuity equal to 55% of your gross retired pay. If you wish to provide for a survivor's annuity which is less than the maximum permitted, you may do so. To accomplish this you must specify the amount less than your gross retired pay, but in NO case less than \$300, to which the 55% is to be applied to determine the amount of the annuity. In the event your monthly retired pay is \$300 or less, the cost of providing your survivor with 55% of your full retired pay (no lesser amount is permitted) is 2½% of your retired pay.

If you are currently participating in the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan (RSFPP), the cost of your coverage is shown below for informational purposes. The law gives you three (3) options as a present participant in RSFPP. These options are: (1) continue RSFPP and not join Survivor Benefit Plan, (2) drop RSFPP and join Survivor Benefit Plan, and (3) continue RSFPP and join Survivor Benefit Plan to provide a total survivor annuity not to exceed 100% of your retired pay, calculated at the time of election in the new program. Under this third option you may reduce the amount of coverage under RSFPP as you see fit.

If you retired prior to 21 September 1972, you have one calendar year in which to elect to participate in the Plan.

If you retired within 180 days after enactment of the Survivor Benefit Plan you have 180 days from your date of retirement as shown below to elect NOT to participate in the PLAN. Unless you specifically elect NOT to participate, you are considered in the PLAN and cost deductions will be made from your retired pay at maximum coverage.

Your election form is enclosed. You should keep this letter with your copy of the election form on the reverse for your records. Your spouse and/or children, or natural person with an insurable interest (which is ex-

plained in the Retired Army Bulletin) should be informed of your election. The separate election form must be completed, signed, sealed, and mailed. It should be noted that a pre-addressed return envelope which requires no postage is enclosed.

If you have not received a copy of the special issue of the RETIRED ARMY BULLETIN, a copy should be requested from the Retired Pay Division, U.S. Army Finance Support Agency, Indianapolis, IN 46249. You request should include your signature, your SSAN, and an address to which the Survivor Benefit Plan information can be sent. To assure earliest coverage or non-coverage for your beneficiaries, the election form should be completed and mailed promptly.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I thank the Chair for consideration of that amendment at the appropriate time.

EDUCATION

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, the second amendment I wish to talk about for a moment and offer tomorrow for a vote is not about the military; it is about education. I was in the Chamber earlier today speaking about education. Let me recap.

Senator MURRAY offered an amendment which I was pleased to vote for, proud to vote for. Although it only received 48 votes, I think it was one of the most important amendments we discussed all day. The reason I say that is because one of the major platforms of this administration when this President took office—I can remember the speeches. I sat in the great room of the House Chamber and listened to the State of the Union speeches. I will paraphrase, but I heard this.

I heard the leader of our country say we are not doing enough in education; that our schools were not doing what they should do, and that he had a plan. If we would just stop throwing money at the system, if we would start expecting success, not funding failure, if we would embrace accountability, if we would make sure all of our teachers were certified, and if we would really work together across party lines and come up with a new plan for public education in our Nation, that is what we should do.

I was convinced, committed, and worked very hard to see that bill pass, and it passed. That was the No Child Left Behind Act. It was not a big lift for me for a number of reasons.

I am very proud of my State because before we entered into this agreement at the Federal level, the State of Louisiana was one of about five States in the Union that was pioneering this exact concept. It said for 150 years we have just thrown money at the system not really requiring or expecting good results and not really measuring our commitment of dollars based on the results we were getting, and that did not seem to make sense. So we switched our system, holding all schools accountable, not just for the averages for the subgroups of children—African Americans, rural children, poor children—but making sure we were not leaving anybody out.

We were well on our way. Louisiana was doing great. Then this administration came in and said: Your plan, although you like it and the people of Louisiana like it and you are making progress, I do not think it is strong enough. He, the leadership, pushed this country into an even stricter plan. The leadership, the administration, said: If you go there, I will be there. I will help and provide the funding in the budget for No Child Left Behind.

One of the reasons I am going to vote against this budget tomorrow is because that did not come true, because it is short \$9 billion. For Louisiana, it means about \$200 million.

I have schools that have been rated as in need of improvement. They are trying so hard, and they are doing a beautiful job. But they need to hire a few more teachers. This administration said it would be there to help hire the teachers. The President said that, but it is not in his budget, and it is not in the budget in the chairman's mark to help them.

Unfortunately, one of the small items that is in the budget which really pours salt on the wound is, while we do not have the \$9 billion for No Child Left Behind, I want to share with everyone what is in the budget, which is very hard to read. What is in the budget is \$50 million to send kids from public schools to private schools, basically. It reserves \$50 million for school choice initiatives that move children from public schools to private schools.

Now we have the situation where we are not going to fund taking children from lower performing schools to move them into higher performing public schools, but we are going to specifically provide additional money to move them into private schools.

For the record, in Chicago, under the President's plan, 125,000 students were eligible for transfer, meaning that 125,000 students found themselves in schools that did not make the mark.

They requested a transfer to a higher performing public school, which is one

of the promises of No Child Left Behind, but only 3,000 were transferred. Why? Because there is no space. Why? Because they do not have the money to hire additional teachers. Why? Because the President's budget specifically prohibits money from being used for school construction, because the Republican leadership, led by President Bush, does not want money spent on school construction.

I do not know how children are moved from a lower performing school to a higher performing school if the higher performing school is filled unless classrooms are added, expanded, or teachers are added. Because he flat-funded the teacher section and prohibits money from being used to build additional schools, I am not quite sure how our superintendents, Democrats or Republicans, are going to handle it, but they have a real challenge before them.

In Los Angeles, we have 230,000 children who are eligible for transfer. I do not think anybody in the Chamber could guess how many actually were transferred. One hundred students. Two hundred thirty thousand children are eligible, and 100 were transferred.

I learned today, and I am going to submit for the RECORD, if I can verify it—and if not, I will remove this from the Record—there has not been a new school built in L.A. in the last 20 years. That may not be correct, but I want to say it tonight. If it is not, I will remove it from the RECORD. L.A. is growing so fast, and these children have no place to go, and this budget does not help them get anywhere. It says instead of helping children go to new public schools, we are going to send them to private schools.

Of course, there are no spaces in the private schools, either, so I am not sure where we are going to send them.

In Baltimore, 30,000 children—that is this year—last year were eligible for transfer. Only 194 were transferred. In New Orleans, in my home city, 35,000 children were in failing schools. Only

400 were transferred. The rest were denied because of lack of space in higher performing schools.

My amendment is going to remove the \$50 million, and say no money can be spent in this budget sending children to private schools until we provide options for them to go to public schools. Many of these families would choose public schools, but according to this budget they cannot go because we will not help them add teachers, and they are strictly prohibited from using the money for school construction in this budget.

Those are the two amendments: One to help spouses in the military. I think we can find a few million dollars to help them and I am hoping to take this out of the budget so we can keep our priorities straight, which is helping all schools with the best we can, but living up to our promises of No Child Left Behind first.

When we have funded that effort, which is not just any other Government program—I know we do not fund every Government program at the authorized levels, but this is different. This was a special promise made. This was the foundation of a new beginning for our public schools. This was a promise that was made to the people of our country, and it is a promise that is not fulfilled in this budget, which is why, again, I will vote against it, and I will be pleased to offer these amendments in the morning.

I yield back my time.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 11:02 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, March 11, 2004, at 9:30 a.m.