

H.R. 1200: The Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2019

Background:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides a range of benefits, including monthly disability compensation and clothing allowances for certain disabled veterans, and monthly dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses or children of veterans who died due to a service-connected condition. While Social Security benefits are automatically adjusted annually to keep pace with inflation, Congress must pass legislation every year to provide a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for veterans and surviving family members receiving these types of compensation from VA. Congress has done so for decades. Most recently, the <u>Veterans' Compensation COLA Act of 2018</u> passed the House unanimously and was <u>signed into law</u> to provide a COLA for 2019. The Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2019 would similarly provide a COLA for 2020.

The Message:

- We owe a constant debt to the men and women who have fought for our great nation and have a service connected disability.
- Providing veterans with a cost-of-living adjustment to ensure that the compensation they and their surviving family members receive from VA keeps up with inflation is one way to honor them for their sacrifices.
- Many veterans rely on the disability benefits they receive from VA to make ends meet and it is incumbent on Congress to ensure that they are able to do so despite inflation.
- This commonsense legislation would ensure that our nation's veterans receive the same annual cost-of-living adjustment as Social Security recipients.