

April 15, 2026

The Honorable Matt Van Epps
U.S. Representative
2446 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jill Tokuda
U.S. Representative
1027 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jen Kiggans
U.S. Representative
152 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Representatives Van Epps, Tokuda, and Kiggans:

As a Central Nonprofit Agency authorized to facilitate the AbilityOne[®] Program, SourceAmerica[®] writes to express its strong support for the *Honoring Our Nation's Obligation to Remember Gold Star Families Act* (HONOR Gold Star Families Act). We also thank you for your leadership in introducing legislation that strengthens our nation's commitment to families who have borne the immeasurable cost of military service.

The SourceAmerica Federal contractor network includes approximately 500 nonprofit agencies that train, employ, and support approximately 59,400 people with disabilities nationwide. Thousands of the individuals we serve have direct ties to military service as veterans and military family members; the impact of loss within the Armed Forces resonates deeply across our network.

The HONOR Gold Star Families Act takes an important and necessary step to modernize the military death gratuity by doubling the benefit from \$100,000 to \$200,000 and establishing an automatic annual cost-of-living adjustment. The death gratuity has remained unchanged since Fiscal Year 2006 despite nearly two decades of inflation. As a result, its real value has eroded substantially, even as other federal benefits and compensation structures receive routine inflation adjustments.

The death gratuity is one of the first forms of assistance provided to surviving families following the loss of a service member. It serves as a critical, immediate, tax-free payment to help stabilize financial circumstances during a moment of profound grief and uncertainty. By increasing the gratuity and protecting it from future erosion, the HONOR Gold Star Families Act ensures that this benefit reflects both the realities of today's economy and the value our nation places on the ultimate sacrifice made by military families.

On behalf of the hundreds of nonprofit agencies within the SourceAmerica network and the tens of thousands of people with disabilities and veterans they employ, SourceAmerica supports the HONOR Gold Star Families Act and appreciates your continued commitment to Gold Star families. This legislation represents a meaningful reaffirmation of our nation's responsibility to provide tangible, lasting support to those left behind.

We look forward to working with you and the 119th Congress to advance policies that support veterans, military families, and individuals with disabilities. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact our Vice President of Government Affairs, Rick Terrazas, at RTerrazas@SourceAmerica.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Belden', written in a cursive style.

Richard Belden

President and CEO
SourceAmerica