

DRAFT RESOLUTION 20-04

SUBJECT: Concurrent Receipt

SOURCE: OH, AK, IN, IL, MO, ND, CT, WI, DC, PA, NC, WA, MA, MI

WHEREAS, military retirees are paying for their own disability with their military retired pay. This unfair policy has adversely impacted disabled veterans and their families for more than a century, but was partially repealed by Congress in 2004.

WHEREAS, under current law disabled veterans with 20-plus years of active military service who are also in receipt of a VA disability determination of 50 percent or higher may retain both military retirement pay and their VA compensation; and

WHEREAS, the law did not provide the same equity to service-connected disabled military retirees with VA ratings of 40 percent or below, or Chapter 61 retirees who were medically retired with less than 20 years, regardless of VA disability rating; and

WHEREAS, a disabled veteran who does not retire from military service but elects instead to pursue a civilian career after enlistment expires can receive full compensation and full civilian retired pay. AMVETS believes that a veteran who has served this country for 20 years should have that same right and not be penalized for choosing a military career rather than a civilian career; and

WHEREAS, no other category of federal employee faces the same restriction on disability and retirement pay; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS supports legislation that would provide for the full and immediate concurrent receipt of military retirement pay and VA disability compensation, without offset, regardless of their VA rating percentage in order to end the unfair policy of forcing many military longevity retirees to forfeit some of their retired pay in order to receive equal amounts of disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Committee Recommendations:

VAVS & VA Hospital and Medical Services, Rehabilitation Benefits Committee: Adopt

Floor Action: ADOPTED