

## H.R. 6445: Recovering Service Members Disability Benefits Act

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**Issue:** When our nation's service members are wounded in combat overseas and are sent back to the United States to recover, some are unable to work or keep their current job in their respective military branch due to their injuries. While many of these individuals are eligible to apply for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits, the program mandates a 5-month waiting period from the date they were wounded before any benefits can be provided. For those who are wounded and recovering, the wait for benefits can be financially and emotionally straining.

### **The *Recovering Service Members Disability Benefits Act* (H.R. 6445) –**

- The *Recovering Service Members Disability Benefits Act* would provide an exemption from the SSDI program's 5-month waiting period for recovering service members that have been approved for SSDI benefits.
- The *Recovering Service Members Disability Benefits Act* defines the term "recovering service member" as a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or a Reserve component, who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy while recovering from a serious bodily injury or physical illness related to military service.
- The *Recovering Service Members Disability Benefits Act* defines the term "serious bodily injury or physical illness" as a bodily injury or physical illness incurred by the service member in a combat zone, that has rendered the member medically unable to perform his or her duties.
- The *Recovering Service Members Disability Benefits Act* does not expand eligibility for disability benefits and does not automatically approve requests, and all of the same protections used to prevent fraud and abuse of the program remain as defined under current law.
- The *Recovering Service Members Disability Benefits Act* provides disabled service members with the immediate reassurance of knowing there is financial support available as they cope with the emotional and physical challenge of recovery.

H.R. 6445 Bill Text: Click [Here](#)