

# FAIR TREATMENT FOR FAMILIES OF VETERANS ACT (H.R. \_\_\_)

Congressman  
Ted Deutch (FL-22)

The Fair Treatment for Families of Veterans Act will end unfair collections practices triggered by a technicality in veterans benefits law.



Under current federal law certain veterans benefits are terminated on the last day of the **month before** the death of the recipient. For example, if a beneficiary dies on the 27th day of February, their benefits would end on January 31st. This leaves surviving family members scrambling to come up with the funds to repay the VA because of this unfair technicality.

In most cases, benefits paid out at the beginning of the month have already been used to pay for essential living expenses, meaning families are scrambling to come up with repayment.

Unfortunately, the current cut-off policy has put the financial security of veteran families in South Florida and across the country at risk. In one case reported in the media a South Florida family was at risk of owing the VA \$1,113 dollars even if those funds were needed to care for their ailing mother, the surviving spouse of a World War II veteran.

This legislation will prevent this unfair consequence by simply amending the cut off date for benefits to the last day of the month of a beneficiary's death. Families of those who have sacrificed so much for our nation deserve the fair treatment that this law will provide.