

# H.R. 2655, THE PURPLE HEART FREEDOM TO WORK ACT

*Sponsored by Rep. Austin Scott (GA-08)*

*“This legislation would allow combat wounded, total and permanently disabled veterans the opportunity to continue to excel as valuable members of the community and workforce, without forcing them surrender their SSDI benefits.”*



## THE PROBLEM:

Currently, **combat disabled veterans** who earn an income in excess of \$1,220 per month **lose 100% of their Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)** for being actively engaged in the workforce.

This unacceptably low limit deters workforce participation and disincentivizes injured veterans from pursuing jobs, promotions, or working overtime.

## THE SOLUTION:

H.R. 2655 would raise the current monthly disability benefit for combat disabled veterans from \$1,220 per month to the statutorily-allowed maximum level of \$2,040 per month.

By **raising the current maximum monthly income level** to the maximum statutorily allowed level, disabled veterans would be able to maintain an acceptable level of support, while also allowing them an opportunity to reach their professional goals.

Additionally, it would ensure veterans who are disabled due to combat do not lose their Social Security disability benefits in cases when earned income exceeds the new threshold. The bill introduces a 4 to 1 offset, **eliminating the SSDI benefit cliff by gradually reducing benefits only after a veteran's salary rises above \$2,040 per month.**

## THE SUPPORT:

