

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

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 Social Security Administration Disability Trust Fund 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 their 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 member in the line of duty in a combat zone, that has rendered the member medically unfit to perform their duties as defined by office, grade, rank, or rating.
- The *Recovering Service Members Disability Benefits Act* does not expand eligibility for disability benefits and does it automatically approve requests, and all of the same protections used to prevent fraud and abuse of the program remain as defined under current law.

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