

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2430

To provide a permanent appropriation of funds for the payment of death gratuities and related benefits for survivors of deceased members of the uniformed services in event of any period of lapsed appropriations.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 14, 2018

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. MORAN, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. CAPITO, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Appropriations

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## A BILL

To provide a permanent appropriation of funds for the payment of death gratuities and related benefits for survivors of deceased members of the uniformed services in event of any period of lapsed appropriations.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Families of Fallen Ser-  
5 vicemembers First Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PERMANENT APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR PAY-**  
2 **MENT OF DEATH GRATUITIES AND RELATED**  
3 **BENEFITS FOR SURVIVORS OF DECEASED**  
4 **MILITARY SERVICEMEMBERS IN EVENT OF A**  
5 **PERIOD OF LAPSED APPROPRIATIONS.**

6 (a) APPROPRIATION.—Funds are hereby appro-  
7 priated during any period of lapsed appropriations during  
8 a fiscal year, out of any money in the Treasury not other-  
9 wise appropriated, for “Operation and Maintenance” and  
10 “Military Personnel” accounts related to members of the  
11 uniformed services (as defined in section 101(5) of title  
12 37, United States Code) for the payment of death gratu-  
13 ities and the provision of related benefits described in sub-  
14 section (c) to survivors of deceased members of the uni-  
15 formed services during the period of lapsed appropria-  
16 tions.

17 (b) RATE OF APPROPRIATION.—Funds appropriated  
18 pursuant to subsection (a) are appropriated at a rate for  
19 operations as provided for the most recent fiscal year for  
20 which an Act making appropriations for the uniformed  
21 services has been enacted and under the authority and  
22 conditions provided in such Act.

23 (c) COVERED BENEFITS.—Funds appropriated pur-  
24 suant to subsection (a) are available for the following pur-  
25 poses during the period of lapsed appropriations:

1           (1) The payment of a death gratuity under sec-  
2           tions 1475–1477 and 1489 of title 10, United States  
3           Code.

4           (2) The payment or reimbursement for funeral  
5           and burial expenses authorized under sections 1481  
6           and 1482 of title 10, United States Code.

7           (3) The payment or reimbursement of author-  
8           ized funeral travel and travel related to the dignified  
9           transfer of remains and unit memorial services  
10          under section 481f of title 37, United States Code.

11          (4) The temporary continuation of a basic al-  
12          lowance of housing for dependents of members dying  
13          on active duty, as authorized by section 403(l) of  
14          title 37, United States Code.

15          (d) DURATION.—Funds appropriated pursuant to  
16          subsection (a) and authority granted pursuant to this Act  
17          shall be available whenever there is a period of lapsed ap-  
18          propriations for the duration of the period of lapsed appro-  
19          priations.

20          (e) TREATMENT OF EXPENDITURES.—Expenditures  
21          made pursuant to this Act shall be charged to the applica-  
22          ble appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever a bill  
23          in which such applicable appropriation, fund, or authoriza-  
24          tion is contained is enacted into law.

1       (f) RULE OF IMPLEMENTATION.—This Act shall be  
2 implemented so that only the most limited funding action  
3 of that permitted in this Act shall be taken in order to  
4 provide for continuation of the benefits described in sub-  
5 section (c).

6       (g) PERIOD OF LAPSED APPROPRIATIONS DE-  
7 FINED.—In this Act, the term “period of lapsed appro-  
8 priations” means any period during which appropriations  
9 are not available due to the absence of the timely enact-  
10 ment of any Act or joint resolution (including any Act or  
11 joint resolution making continuing appropriations) appro-  
12 priating funds for the payment of the benefits described  
13 in subsection (c).

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