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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. CONNOLLY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

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
5 Servicemembers 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).