



## **The Restoring Benefits to Defrauded Veterans Act**

*Rep. David Trone*

### **Summary**

The Restoring Benefits to Defrauded Veterans Act is a common-sense reform that would address a long-standing issue affecting millions of veterans who are victims of fraud. A 2019 Department of Veterans Affairs report uncovered over a hundred veterans who fell victims to fraud and perished before misused funds could be returned to the veteran. Under current law, if a veteran passes away before their case is resolved, their family can't seek reimbursement for misused dollars. This issue continues to occur, and a simple legislative action will help veterans and their families reclaim defrauded dollars and give them access to the money they rightfully deserve.

### **What will this legislation do?**

Specifically, this legislation would:

- Require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to reissue misused benefits to a beneficiary's estate in cases where the beneficiary predeceased reissuance
- Provide reissued benefits to either the veteran's estate, successor, or next inheritor

Our primary goal is to protect veterans from falling victim to fraud. In the event that we're unable to do this, we can ensure veterans and their families are reimbursed whenever possible. The VA should ensure that veterans and their families receive all benefits that are rightfully earned by a veteran's service to our country.

### **Support for the Restoring Benefits to Defrauded Veterans Act**

The American Legion, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, & Wounded Warrior Project