

THE GOLD STAR CHILDREN ACT

CONGRESSMAN VAN TAYLOR

Today, there are more than 15,000 children of all ages in the United States who have lost a parent to war. In addition to the trauma of losing a parent, these individuals are often forced to take on great responsibility far sooner than their peers.

In an effort to honor and recognize the tremendous sacrifices made for our country by our fallen and permanently and totally disabled service members, our nation grants those closest to them, including parents and spouses, a hiring preference when applying for employment with the federal government.

While this preference is available to the spouses and parents of our fallen service members, it is not available to the more than 15,000 Gold Star children who have lost a parent to war or whose parent has been totally or permanently disabled as a result of their service.

The *Gold Star Children Act* will extend the federal hiring preference to the children of fallen or permanently or totally disabled service members. Today, candidates for federal employment are graded on a one hundred point scale. Under the *Gold Star Children Act*, eligible Gold Star children would receive a ten point hiring preference.

Losing a parent to war is a traumatic experience that Gold Star children of all ages endure. However, by expanding preference eligibility for federal jobs to Gold Star children, we can help ensure their parent's sacrifice is recognized.

The *Gold Star Children Act* has broad bipartisan support and has been endorsed by the American Gold Star Mothers Inc., Gold Star Kids, Gold Star Children, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, AMVETS, and Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America.

For more information on the Gold Star Children Act, please contact Congressman Taylor's office at (202) 225-4201 or visit Congressman Taylor's website.

VANTAYLOR.HOUSE.GOV

