To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments to be made automatically by law each year in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Bost introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments to be made automatically by law each year in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “American Heroes COLA Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. AUTOMATIC ANNUAL INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) INDEXING TO SOCIAL SECURITY INCREASES.—

Section 5312 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d)(1) Whenever there is an increase in benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) as a result of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)), the Secretary shall, effective on the date of such increase in benefit amounts, increase the dollar amounts in effect for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation by the Secretary, as specified in paragraph (2), as such amounts were in effect immediately before the date of such increase in benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act, by the same percentage as the percentage by which such benefit amounts are increased.

“(2) The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to paragraph (1) are the following:
“(A) WARTIME DISABILITY COMPENSATION.—
Each of the dollar amounts in effect under section
1114 of this title.

“(B) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DE-
PENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect
under section 1115(1) of this title.

“(C) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar
amount in effect under section 1162 of this title.

“(D) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COM-
PENSATION TO SURVIVING SPOUSE.—Each of the
dollar amounts in effect under subsections (a)
through (d) of section 1311 of such title.

“(E) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COM-
PENSATION TO CHILDREN.—Each of the dollar
amounts in effect under sections 1313(a) and 1314
of such title.

“(3) Whenever there is an increase under paragraph
(1) in amounts in effect for the payment of disability com-
pensation and dependency and indemnity compensation,
the Secretary shall publish such amounts, as increased
pursuant to such paragraph, in the Federal Register at
the same time as the material required by section
215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
415(i)(2)(D)) is published by reason of a determination
under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).
“(4) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may adjust administratively, consistent with the increases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons under section 10 of Public Law 85–857 (72 Stat. 1263) who have not received compensation under chapter 11 of this title.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (d) of section 5312 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a) of this section, shall take effect on December 1, 2017.