

MONTEREY COUNTY



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February 2, 2023

The Honorable James Ramos
Capitol Swing Space
1021 O Street, Suite 8310
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 46 (Ramos) Personal income taxes: exclusion: Military Services Retirement and Surviving Spouse Benefit Payment Act – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member James Ramos,

The County of Monterey is pleased to support your measure Assembly Bill 46, which will provide a state tax exemption for retired members of the Armed Forces and exempt recipients of the Department of Defense's (DoD) Survivor Benefits Program.

California currently is the only state that fully taxes the pay of its 146,000 military retirees. AB 46 recognizes members of the Armed Forces and their contribution to our nation and seeks to exempt their retirement pay once they retire after twenty years of service.

A top issue for employers in California is attracting a qualified workforce. Approximately 60,000 high-tech jobs are unfilled. Armed Forces retirees are highly skilled, often in areas requiring technical and management expertise. These men and women often continue to be valuable assets to our schools, local charities, and non-profit organizations.

AB 46 will honor those who dedicated their life to serving their country, and retain and attract uniformed service retirees to California for the purposes of strengthening the state's skilled workforce, bringing stability to communities, and contributing to the state and local tax base.

For these reasons, Monterey County strongly supports AB 46. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Monterey County's Public Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP at 916-442-8888.

Sincerely,

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Luis A. Alejo, Chair
Monterey County Board of Supervisors

Cc: Hon. Anna Caballero, 14th Senate District
Hon. John Laird, 17th Senate District
Hon. Robert Rivas, 29th Assembly District
Hon. Dawn Addis, 30th Assembly District

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