



County of Monterey

Board of Supervisors

Luis A. Alejo, District 1
Glenn Church, District 2
Chris M. Lopez, Chair, District 3
Wendy Root Askew, Vice Chair, District 4
Kate Daniels, District 5

Clerk of the Board
168 West Alisal St. 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901
831 755 5066
cob@co.monterey.ca.us

February 10, 2025

The Honorable James Ramos
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 8310
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 53 (Ramos) Personal income taxes: exclusion: Military Services Retirement and Surviving Spouse Benefit Payment Act. – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Ramos,

On behalf of the County of Monterey, I am writing in support of your measure AB 53. This bill will provide a state tax exemption for retired members of the Armed Forces beginning in 2027. This bill will also exempt recipients of the Department of Defense's (DoD) Survivor Benefits Program. Since uniform services and California National Guard retirement pay stops upon death of the retiree, the DoD provides a continuous lifetime annuity for their dependents as an inflation-adjusted monthly income. The purpose of the bill is twofold; to honor those who dedicated their life to serving their country, and to 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. California currently is the only state that fully taxes the pay of its military retirees.

The County of Monterey has long been a supporter of veterans and their families. The Monterey County Military & Veterans Affairs Office (MVAO) provides many services to assist veterans and their families in obtaining state and federal benefits. According to [2023 Census Data](#), there are 14,519 total veterans living in the County. This bill would put money back into the pockets of County of Monterey veterans and would incentivize others to retire in the State.

AB 53 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. 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. Incentivizing veterans to retire in California would not only honor veterans for their service but would stimulate local economies where they ultimately reside. Therefore, the County of Monterey supports AB 53.

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,

DRAFT

Chris M. Lopez, Chair
Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable John Laird, 17th Senate District
The Honorable Robert Rivas, 29th Assembly District
The Honorable Dawn Addis, 30th Assembly District

California State Association of Counties
(CSAC)
Rural County Representatives of
California (RCRC)

