



County of Monterey

Board of Supervisors

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March 10, 2025

The Honorable Bob Archuleta
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Room 6620
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 296 (Archuleta) Property taxation: exemption: disabled veteran homeowners - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Archuleta:

On behalf of the County of Monterey, I am writing in support of your measure SB 296. This bill would exempt from taxation, property owned by, and that constitutes the principal place of residence of, a veteran, the veteran's spouse, or the veteran and the veteran's spouse jointly, if the veteran is 100% disabled. The bill would provide an unmarried surviving spouse a property exemption in the same amount that they would have been entitled to if the veteran was alive and if certain conditions are met.

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. Exempting disabled veteran's property from taxation would be highly beneficial as it would assist low-income veterans, prevent foreclosures, and recognize the sacrifices that the veteran has made.

Additionally, many disabled veterans face housing instability because they rely on fixed incomes, such as disability benefits, which may not keep pace with rising housing costs. This makes them particularly vulnerable to homelessness. This bill highlights the critical need to ensure that disabled veterans and their families have access to affordable and stable housing. Therefore, the County of Monterey supports SB 296.

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)

