



County of Monterey

Board of Supervisors

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May 11, 2026

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2203 (Tagipa) Public postsecondary education: priority registration: veterans and dependents of veterans: federal GI Bill - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Wicks,

The County of Monterey writes in **support** of Assembly Bill 2203 (Tangipa) regarding priority registration for veterans and dependents of veterans receiving fee waivers or using the federal GI Bill benefits beginning in the 2028-29 academic year.

The County of Monterey supports AB 2203 as a meaningful benefit for veterans and their dependents utilizing the CalVet Tuition Fee Waiver Program or VA educational benefits such as the GI Bill. This bill reflects the principle that expanded federal, state, and local resources are essential to assist veterans and their families with successful reintegration into civilian life, including access to education.

Students covered by this bill, including dependents of veterans with service-connected disabilities and GI Bill beneficiaries, face unique challenges balancing work, family responsibilities, and financial constraints. Without priority registration, these students are frequently forced to delay enrollment in high-demand courses, extending their time to degree completion and increasing overall costs. This outcome undermines the original intent of these educational benefits and creates unnecessary barriers to academic success.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support AB 1934. Should you have any questions regarding our position please contact Senior Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker at 916-930-7780.

Sincerely,

Wendy Root Askew, Chair
Board of Supervisors