



NOSSAMAN LLP | Memorandum

TO: The Honorable Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee

FROM: Nossaman LLP on behalf of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors

DATE: July 21, 2023

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

The County of Monterey is pleased to support measure Assembly Bill (AB) 46 by Assembly Member James Ramos. This measure 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, the County of Monterey pleased to support AB 46. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the County's Public Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP at 916-442-8888.

Sincerely,

Ashley Walker
Nossaman LLP

CC: Honorable James Ramos, California State Assembly
Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Todd Moffitt, Senate Republican Consultant
Hon. Dawn Addis, 30th Assembly District
Hon. Anna Caballero, 14th Senate District
Hon. John Laird, 17th Senate District
Hon. Robert Rivas, 29th Assembly District
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)