



CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY
Dr. Darshana Patel
 ASSEMBLYMEMBER, DISTRICT 76

How to Support AB 53

What is AB 53?

AB 53 will provide a \$20,000 state tax exemption for retired members of the Armed Forces and recipients of the Department of Defense’s (DoD) Survivor Benefits Program starting in 2025. 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.

Why support AB 53?

California is the only state that fully taxes the pay of its 141,000 military retirees. San Diego is home to over 240,000 veterans and California is home to 1.2 million veterans. Between 2000 and 2016, the nation’s population of military retirees increased by 17%. In a report by the San Diego Military Advisory Council, it found that if a tax exemption were in place, the economic gains for California would be substantial:

- 12,600 more jobs
- \$830 million added to total personal income
- \$1.27 billion added to GSP
- \$2.0 billion added to total business sales

Who is supporting AB 53?

American Legion (CA) • CA Association of County Veteran Service Officers • CA Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States • Marine Corps League (CA) • Military Officers Assn of America (CA Council) • CA State Board of Equalization • CA State Commanders Veterans Council • CA Tribal Business Alliance • County of Humboldt • County of Monterrey • County of Riverside • Peace Officers Assn of California • Vietnam Veterans of America (CA) • Ventura County Chapter of the Military Officers Assn of America

1



Write a Letter of Support

Write a letter of support urging the Assembly to pass AB 53.

Not sure what to write? Scan this QR code for a template letter that you are welcome to copy.



2



Submit Letter to the Assembly Committee

Submit your letter to the California Assembly Appropriations Committee at approps.committee@assembly.ca.gov

Send a copy to Gonzalo.Rocha-Vazquez@asm.ca.gov so our staff can keep you in the loop on the bill’s progress.

3



Recruit More People & Orgs to Send Letters

We need your support in identifying more supporters to advocate for a successful passage of AB 53!

Send this tip sheet to local leaders, business owners, and community groups so they can also join our efforts supporting AB 53.