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April 17, 2026

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

RE: AB 2203 (Tangipa), Priority registration for veterans and dependents using the California Veterans Fee Waiver – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Wicks,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our strong support for AB 2203 (Tangipa), which would ensure that students receiving the California Veterans Fee Waiver are granted priority registration at California State University campuses and California Community Colleges, beginning with the 2028–29 academic year.

The California Veterans Fee Waiver serves some of our state's most deserving residents, including the dependents of veterans who have a disability due to their military service, were killed while serving, or passed away from duty related causes. These students often carry unique responsibilities, financial constraints, and family obligations tied directly to the sacrifices of their loved ones.

However, despite the importance of this benefit, many eligible students still face barriers to completing their education in a timely manner. Course availability and delayed registration can force students to extend their time in school, increase living costs, or delay entering the workforce. Priority registration is a simple, low-cost solution that ensures Fee Waiver recipients can enroll in the courses they need to progress efficiently toward their degrees.

AB 2203 appropriately aligns educational access with the original intent of the Veterans Fee Waiver which was to remove barriers and create a fair pathway for these students to succeed. By granting priority registration, the bill helps prevent bottlenecks, supports timely graduation, and honors the sacrifices of California's veteran families.

For these reasons, the Kern County Board of Supervisors strongly supports this measure and respectfully urges you to vote **YES on AB 2203**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phillip Peters", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Phillip Peters, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
 Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation
 Kern County Veterans Service Department
 Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange