

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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April 28, 2026

The Honorable Jeff Gonzalez
California State Assembly, 36th District
1021 O Street, Suite 4230
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2022 (Gonzalez), Disabled veteran homeowners exemption – Support if amended

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express support for AB 2022, but only if amended to ensure that counties are held harmless from the significant property tax revenue losses the bill would create.

Kern County deeply values the service and sacrifices of disabled veterans and their families. The intent of AB 2022, to provide meaningful property tax relief to fully disabled veterans and qualifying surviving spouses, is aligned with longstanding statewide efforts to support those who have borne the greatest burdens of military service. The Board previously supported similar legislative efforts, including SB 685 (Grove, 2021), which also sought to expand disabled veteran exemptions.

However, as currently written, AB 2022 presents serious fiscal challenges for counties. The bill explicitly excludes state reimbursement for property tax revenue losses despite creating a state-mandated local program. Based on analysis from the Kern County Assessor's Office, the proposed exemption would remove an estimated \$361 million from our assessment roll, resulting in approximately \$633,000 in annual General Fund losses and \$375,000 in annual Fire Fund losses over the five-year period of the bill. These reductions directly impact essential public services, including public safety and emergency response.

Kern County fully recognizes the importance of assisting disabled veterans, but such support cannot come at the expense of local governments' ability to maintain critical operations. Counties should not be forced to absorb unfunded mandates created by statewide policy decisions.

For these reasons, the Kern County Board of Supervisors will support AB 2022 only if it is amended to require that the State General Fund fully backfill all county property tax revenue losses resulting from the proposed exemptions. This amendment would ensure that the bill's intended benefits reach disabled veterans without undermining the financial stability of the communities in which they live.

We appreciate your commitment to California veterans and look forward to continued collaboration to achieve a balanced and sustainable solution.

Sincerely,



Phillip Peters, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation
Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation
Kern County Assessor-Recorder
Kern County Veterans Service
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange