# Email/Letter to Your Senator

**Support** [**AB 46**](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB46)**: Military Services Retirement and Surviving Spouse Benefit Payment Act**

Dear X,

Assemblymember James Ramos has introduced Assembly Bill 46 in the 2023 California legislature to exempt Military Retirees and Surviving Spouses from California income tax. As you know, California is the only state in the country that does not provide some form of tax relief for its military retirees.

Despite having the largest number of assigned active military members of any state, California only ranks fourth in number of retirees. California continues to lose retirees at an accelerated rate. After 20 years of military service, military retirees are highly skilled with experience in management, task prioritization, resource management, attention to detail, teamwork, and communication. Military retirees who do remain in California provide an available workforce to fill many of the almost 40,000 technical and over 20,000 medical field job vacancies in California. These jobs include software engineering, cybersecurity, aerospace, artificial intelligence, biochemistry, physicians, nurses, and management. Additionally, many military retirees, surviving spouses and children will use their educational benefits to pursue advanced degrees in STEM and medical occupations providing a much-needed help to California's workforce.

Military retirees pay taxes on their second career earnings which will likely well exceed their military retirement. Instead of losing a taxpayer and family, California will retain taxpayers with increased earnings and family tax revenues. AB-46 will actually raise total state tax revenues. Retained retirees will immediately increase sales and property tax revenues, aiding our state’s, city, and county budgets.

Another consideration is that military retiree pay is a stream of federal revenue into the economy of the state where a retiree chooses to live. According to a study conducted for the Governor's Military Council, the defense industry contributed $168 billion to CA's economy in 2021, 5% of the state's budget. The DoD estimates that military retirees and surviving spouses bring a $4.8 billion, annual inflation-protected stream of federal funds, to California's economy each year. Already Virginia, Florida and Texas receive more than $6 billion each year in federal military retiree income and California is falling further behind.

AB 46 honors those who dedicated their lives to serve their country, and their surviving spouses and families. Additionally, it helps our state retain and attract uniformed-service retirees to strengthen the state’s skilled workforce, bring stability to communities, and contribute to the state and local tax base.

Please support AB-46. Doing so provides strong visible support to our California employers and economy, as well as our retired military members and their surviving spouses.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Signature

Name, Address

[Organization if applicable]

# AB 46 Letter/Email to Governor Gavin Newsom

**Instructions**: Please cut and paste the letter below and send via email to GovPressOffice@gov.ca.gov . Prefer mail? Send to address below.

Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Support** [**AB 46**](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB46)**: Military Services Retirement and Surviving Spouse Benefit Payment Act**

June 19, 2023

Dear Governor Newsom,

Assembly member James Ramos has introduced AB 46, "*Military Services Retirement and Surviving Spouse Benefit Payment Act,"* and on behalf of the Alameda County Chapter of MOAA, we are asking for your support of this legislation.

We truly appreciate Assemblymember Ramos for recognizing the significant contributions our military retirees and their spouses provide to California's work force development and the $168 billion dollars the Defense Industry brings to California each year. Governor Newsom, it is time that California joins the other 49 states that currently provide an exemption on military retirement from state income taxes by you supporting and passing AB 46.

Department of Defense Actuary Reports show that California had 165,502 retirees in 2010, and that number was reduced to 149,430 by 2020. That same DOD Actuary Report reveals a continuing decline in California's military retiree population, which as of 2021 has shrunk to 128,561. The decline in California's miliary retiree population has a negative impact on federal funds that flow into California. Both Arizona and Nevada have seen an increase in their state's military retiree population during this same period and federal funds follow the military retirees to these states. Failure to support AB 46 will likely continue this downward trend of military retirees leaving California and California losing federal monies.

Additionally, a 2021 study conducted by the California Research Bureau, California State Library on California Statewide National Security Economic Impacts states that California is home to the nation's largest concentration of military personnel and other national security activity. The study further states that in 2020 military and national security activities generated an estimated $168.7billon in economic activity, approximately 5.4% of California's economy.

Military retirees, with an average age of 42, who have spent the last 20 years serving our country as Medical Professionals, STEM roles, Life Sciences, National Security experts, Engineers, Aviation Maintenance, Space Force Professionals, Vocational Trades, and more provide the state with a valuable work force. Military retirees are ready from the first day of retirement to enter numerous professions in CA where there is a shortage of candidates. Studies conducted by the San Diego Military Council clearly show that these 2nd careers generate millions of dollars of additional revenue for local communities, counties and California from local taxes, sales taxes, and state taxes on the salaries of those 2nd careers. AB46 will keep these retirees in California.

Please support AB46!

Signature

Name, Address

[Organization if applicable]