



Lt Gen Dana T. Atkins, USAF (Ret)
President and CEO

January 18, 2022

LCDR E. Fred Green, USN (Ret)
7494 Golfcrest Dr
San Diego, CA 92119-1224

Dear Fred,

Thank you for this opportunity for the Military Officers Association of America, National Headquarters to endorse your ongoing efforts to seek relief from taxation for Uniformed Services retirement pay and Survivor Benefits. Assembly Bill 1623, introduced by Assemblymember Ramos, addresses an ongoing imperative to normalize state-level taxation of the noted retired pay to level the playing field for the talent and experience retirees bring to so many industries. Some of those more prominent industries are defense contractors who rely on experience and security clearances—notably, California leads the nation in defense contracts.

This bill is timely and relative to the recent passage of a similar bill in Arizona after decades of efforts with a culmination of their passage retroactive to 1 January 2021; this is newsworthy for California. According to Cal Poly, as reported by KTLA, the number of people moving to California dropped 38% at the end of September 2021 compared to the end of March 2020; the number of people leaving California for other states increased 12%. Given ongoing employment challenges in commerce and in education, any effort to keep qualified working-aged individuals in the state warrants support. The DoD Actuary reports California had 165,501 retirees in 2010, reduced to 149,430 in 2020; in the same period Arizona went from 54,286 to 58,586; and Nevada went from 27,386 to 30,371.

MOAA's membership base is comprised of 350,000 members nationwide with over 25,000 living in California – this includes just over 5,000 Surviving Spouses. I am compelled to support this legislation for the benefit of those members who want to stay in California and continue to work if they so choose, and for those members who may be considering California as their next home.

Please pass on my appreciate to your leadership team in CALMOAA, and those Military and Veterans Organizations with whom you work to continue supporting this legislation.

Sincerely,