



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HJR 75</b>		DATE: <b>1/31/2024</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Property Tax Reform</b>			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BLAKE LEITCH</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>217-246-9484</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>THE WARRIOR's JOURNEY</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>3555 N. GLENSTONE AVE</b>			
CITY: <b>SPRINGFIELD</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65803</b>
EMAIL: <b>bleitch@twj.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/31/2024 10:12 AM</b>	

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

This testimony is submitted in strong support of Missouri's House Joint Resolution 75 (HJR 75), which proposes a Constitutional amendment to extend the homestead tax exemption to military veterans with a 100% service-connected disability. This amendment not only recognizes the sacrifices made by our veterans but also takes a significant step towards alleviating the financial burden on those who have given so much to our country. The current provision, which exempts all real property used as a homestead of any citizen of Missouri who is a former prisoner of war with a total service-connected disability, is a commendable recognition of the unique challenges faced by this particular group of veterans. However, HJR 75 expands this exemption to include all military veterans residing in Missouri with a 100% service-connected disability, as determined by the US Department of Veterans Affairs. This expansion is a crucial acknowledgment of the diverse backgrounds and experiences of our veterans, ensuring that financial relief is provided to those who need it most. The proposed amendment not only addresses the immediate financial concerns of disabled veterans but also positions Missouri as an even more veteran-friendly state. By attracting and retaining military veterans, Missouri is fostering a community that values and supports those who have served our nation. This, in turn, creates a positive ripple effect, potentially attracting more federal dollars into the Missouri economy. Disabled veterans often face unique challenges as they transition to civilian life, and the financial strain of property taxes can exacerbate these difficulties. HJR 75 provides a tangible solution by exempting real property used as a homestead from taxation for those veterans with a 100% service-connected disability. This exemption not only honors their service but also offers a practical means of support, allowing them to build stable and secure lives. In conclusion, the committee is urged to support and recommend the passage of Missouri's HJR 75. By extending the homestead tax exemption to all military veterans with a 100% service-connected disability, the state not only demonstrates its gratitude for their sacrifices but also takes a significant step towards building a stronger and more resilient veteran community. This amendment has the potential to make Missouri a beacon of support for our veterans and attract valuable federal funding to bolster the state's economy. Thank you for your time and consideration.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MICHAEL</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>MichaelWesten.3up@protonmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/31/2024 12:31 PM</b>

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**I SUPPORT HJR 75.I would like to see it expanded to include the spouses of such military veterans. I would like to see the service-connected disability rate lowered to 70%.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MICHAEL ALLGIRE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>michaelallgire@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/29/2024 9:25 PM</b>	
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The yearly struggle of keeping our homes or being able to license our vehicle due to paying an annual tax should not be something we worry about every year. I truly feel that after 20 years of war in Iraq and Afghanistan, the previous exemption is obsolete due to the Prisoner of War and 100% permanent and total disability requirement for property tax exemption. I feel that Missouri's Disabled Veterans have paid for the security of their personal possessions and property. I feel the exemption is appropriate and now is the time to reciprocate a simple form of security as these disabled veterans have assured the security of this great nation and the great state of Missouri at the cost of physical, mental, and emotional sacrifice. Many states have tax exemptions on personal property and other large payments for disabled veterans, however, I have noticed Missouri definitely falls short in that area. Many states, including Texas and Illinois has property tax exemptions for disabled veterans. In my humble opinion, this alone adds additional stress and uncertainty to Missouri's Disabled Veterans who already struggle to make ends meet. A few thousand dollars a year for personal property tax, a few thousand more every year for real property tax, on top of the alarming rate of inflation is a lot to deal with as a veteran who's living on fixed incomes with limited ability to work due to injury and/or life altering disabilities that might have been avoided if we chose not to take the oath and defend the nation and states within. As a disabled veteran who faces this struggle, I ask you to please review and consider the strain that these financial burdens place on disabled veterans.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>TROY WILLIAMS</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-636-9998</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MAVO MO ASSOCIATION OF VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS</b>		TITLE: <b>CHAIRMAN</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>721 FREDRICKS LANE</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65109</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/31/2024 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>arniedienoff@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/31/2024 11:49 PM</b>
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**I am Opposed to this Bill as it unfair to ALL other Missourians and the Fiscal Note is very concerning the County, Local and Special Political Subdivisions.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>NATHAN VENDEUVRE MOONEY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>nmooney679@protonmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/30/2024 5:13 PM</b>
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There needs to be a return to the fundamentals of property tax where it is recognized that property held by private individuals, not engaged in commerce and held under any LLC or fictitious corporate name, is already exempt from Property tax since it is outside of the scope of government power to tax. Please See "A Selection of Maxims of Law" by Charles A. Weisman (Section on Property Rights and Possession), the Constitution of Missouri (Article 1 - section 2; Article 1 - Section 10 ) and United States Constitution (Amendment XIII, Section 1) dealing with People's rights to property, Slavery/Indentured Servitude being outlawed, and the primary purpose of Government. There needs to be made a distinction between property being used for commerce and property held in the private, even if the property is used as a homestead to grow food and farm, if it is not being held by an LLC or other Corporate entity and engaged in commerce, it needs to be distinguished as separate. This same principle also applies to all other real and tangible property. To protect the people's rights is part of the oath you took when coming into office.