



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2089		DATE: 3/3/2026
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ABBIGAIL KING		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2026 8:15 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am the spouse of a Missouri veteran and I support legislation that provides property tax relief for disabled veterans. Rising property taxes impact veterans and their families across our state. Please move these bills forward so disabled veterans can receive the relief they have earned through their service and sacrifice. Thank you for your consideration.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANDY DAVIS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: BETTIE RUARK		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/27/2026 6:22 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Statement for Missouri House Committee Hearing on Veteran Property Tax Relief and Real and Personal Property

Chair, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Bettie, and I am a Missouri resident and the spouse of a disabled veteran. I am here to share the lived reality behind the need for clear, consistent, and accessible property tax relief for Missouri’s disabled veterans.

For many of us, our homes are the only stable asset we have after years of service. Yet rising property taxes create a financial strain that grows heavier each year, especially for veterans living on fixed incomes, disability compensation, or retirement pay. When a veteran becomes 100% disabled, that disability affects every part of life—employment, mobility, medical needs, and long term financial stability. Property tax relief is not simply a benefit; it is a safeguard that allows disabled veterans to remain in their homes and maintain independence. We have had many friends and family leave the area for states that offer military veterans property tax relief so I know of what I speak.

Recent legislation has shown that Missouri recognizes this need. However, the implementation has been uneven across counties. Veterans have reported confusion, delays, and inconsistent guidance when attempting to apply for the relief they are legally entitled to. Some counties have not provided clear instructions, some have declined to accept applications, and others have interpreted the law differently. This inconsistency places the burden back on the very people the law was designed to support. When I inquired in Pulaski County, after learning that surrounding counties offered this program, I was told that Pulaski County (where Fort Leonard Wood is located) elected not to participate. This led to me reaching out to Senator Josh Hawley for further assistance as I was not aware that a county could simply elect “not to participate” in a law. In my mind that would be like me getting stopped for speeding or not having insurance and refusing to accept or pay the ticket because I elect not to participate in that law. My sincere hope is that this bill is passed and that every county in the state will be required to participate.

A statewide standard—clear, uniform, and consistently enforced—would ensure that every eligible veteran receives the same treatment regardless of where they live. Veterans should not have to navigate conflicting information or face resistance at the local level. They should not have to hire legal assistance or repeatedly contact elected officials simply to access a benefit already granted by the legislature.

Property tax relief for disabled veterans is more than a financial adjustment. It is a recognition of sacrifice, a commitment to stability, and a promise that Missouri will stand with those who served. When the process is unclear or unevenly applied, that promise is weakened. When it is implemented consistently and transparently, it strengthens trust between veterans, counties, and the state. Pulaski County is quick to state that they love their “military family” and have no issues with taking the extra

funds provided by the government to the county due to Fort Leonard Wood being located here but they also seem quick to slap that "military family" in the face by electing to not participate in a law that would greatly benefit them.

I understand that in addition to the bill being presented in reference to property tax that there is also one moving forward on real and personal property tax, I have the same view point on these bills. Why should we be paying tax on personal property that we paid tax on when purchased for personal use and stored on our own property. We have retired friends that have actually sold their RVs (that they hoped to enjoy during retirement) due to the high annual personal property taxes that they had to pay on them. Taxes are paid when vehicles are purchased, and taxes are paid when you buy fuel for those vehicles. Why tax annually on an asset that had taxes paid in full on the date of purchase?

I respectfully ask this committee to not only pass this legislature but to ensure that the law is applied uniformly across all Missouri counties, that guidance is clear and accessible, and that disabled veterans are not left to navigate this process alone. Missouri has taken an important step by bringing this legislation forward. The next step is ensuring that it works as intended for every veteran who qualifies.

Thank you for your time and for your continued attention to the needs of Missouri's veterans.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: BLAKE LEITCH		PHONE NUMBER: 217-246-9484	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: PARMELE DISABILITY ADVOCATE		TITLE: OUTREACH SPEC	
ADDRESS: 1545 E PRIMROSE			
CITY: SPRINGFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65804
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: BRET D. NELSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 2:04 PM
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I believe disabled veterans have given enough for this country, and therefore should be exempt from all property tax.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: BRUCE A BECKER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 10:20 AM

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As a VFW Post Commander for the last few years, I have had the privilege and the responsibility of working directly with veterans in my community who are facing very real financial hardships. At VFW Post 8828 in Troy, Missouri, we have helped veterans who struggle to afford basic necessities like food on the table, life-sustaining medications, the denial of well-deserved VA benefits, the inability to pay basic utilities and the ever-increasing burden of property taxes while surviving on limited incomes.

Now it is time for action, for more than 7 years, there has been no meaningful legislation passed in Missouri that truly benefits veterans statewide.

It is time for Missouri to honor its promise to Veterans!



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHARLES A SANDERS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/27/2026 8:27 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Veterans have long been overlooked when it comes to returning the favor they have done not only to the nation, but directly to the citizens of the State of Missouri. For the most part they come home, melt back into the civilian life, raise families, and most important pay their taxes. They have no issue supporting the cause of the everyday folks of this state, but they see all these benefits given to individuals who do not. They work, day in and day out, many with service-connected disabilities to pay those taxes. The amount that our Missouri veterans can be compensated in property tax exemptions for the disabilities they have from the service that have provided is important to the quality of life. As a 70% disabled veteran, I not only have worked in federal government for 10 extra years and the State of Missouri for an additional 22 years I have paid those taxes with pride and will continue until I am no longer able. It is not because it is the law, it is because it is important that all citizen's support those in need. Now we have many veterans that have that need and we see expanded Medicaid and other benefits being the top issues that our state legislators addressing and letting our veterans set on the sideline.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CHARLES CANADY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTOPHER P GRIGGS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 11:36 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am a Missouri Vietnam Veteran that is 100% disabled due to Agent Orange. The chemical caused damage to my heart, caused cancers, and chronic kidney disease. The constant noise from the cannons and missile launchers damaged my hearing. I have PTSD from being in combat for two years. I belong to nationwide veteran groups. Missouri is embarrassing when compared to other states that support their veterans with tax relief. Please support legislation that provides property tax relief for disabled veterans. Please move these bills forward so disabled veterans can receive the relief they have earned through their service. Show that MO honors their veterans. Thank you for your consideration. - Christopher P Griggs



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTOPHER SMITH		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 6:32 PM

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Showing support for all my brothers and sisters. My wife and I are veterans.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CORTNEY MCKINNEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 1:07 PM	

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Veterans should receive property tax relief as recognition for their service, sacrifice, and long-term contributions to their communities. Here is why:

1. Recognition of Service and Sacrifice

Veterans have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, often during deployments that required personal sacrifice, time away from family, and exposure to physical or psychological risk. Property tax relief is a tangible way for states and local governments to honor that commitment beyond symbolic gestures.

2. Support for Disabled Veterans

Many veterans live with service-connected disabilities, including injuries, chronic pain, or PTSD. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, a significant percentage of veterans receive disability compensation. Property tax relief helps offset long-term medical costs and income limitations that can result from these disabilities.

3. Fixed or Limited Incomes

A large portion of veterans are retirees who rely on fixed incomes such as military retirement pay or VA benefits. Property taxes can increase over time due to rising home values, making it harder for veterans to remain in their homes. Relief programs provide housing stability and prevent displacement.

4. Encouraging Homeownership and Stability

Homeownership strengthens communities. Offering tax incentives can encourage veterans to buy homes, settle long-term, and invest in local neighborhoods. Stable housing also contributes to better physical and mental health outcomes.

5. Moral and Civic Responsibility

Veterans protected the freedoms and infrastructure that allow communities to thrive. Providing property tax relief reflects a societal commitment to care for those who have served. It reinforces a culture of respect and accountability.

6. Economic Fairness

Military service often interrupts career paths and earning potential. Property tax relief can help balance the economic impact of years spent serving rather than advancing in civilian careers.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CORY BAUER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2026 7:39 PM
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My husband and I are both disabled veterans, HB 2089 would make a real, positive impact on our lives. We are hoping to move to a safer, more comfortable home and start a family in the very near future, this bill would go a long way towards making that dream a reality.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DARRELL TUCKER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 1:13 PM
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Chairman and Members of the Committee,

As a Disabled Missouri veteran having served over 26 years combined in the Marine Corps and the Army, including combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, I support legislation that provides property tax relief for Disabled Veterans. No one other than Veterans and especially Disabled Veterans themselves and their families, fully comprehend the hardship and sacrifices endured and the Great Honor it is to serve this Great Nation. I am fortunate enough to be financially secure at the moment even though a majority of my income is fixed and derived from my military retirement and VA disability which is subject to change in the future and is not permanent. Other Missouri Disabled Veterans are not so fortunate, rising property taxes impact all Disabled Veterans and their families across our state. Please move these bills forward so Disabled Veterans can receive the relief they have earned through their service. Thank you for your consideration. Respectfully Submitted,



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DEANNA RHODES-WIDMER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 10:30 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DORI LAWSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DUANE COPOWYCZ		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2026 10:30 AM
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I Duane Copowycz support this bill HB 2089. As a Disabled Veteran that spent over 20 years active duty in the U.S. Army Infantry. I believe this is a small gesture for these disabled veteran's that gave so much.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DUSTIN DIXON		PHONE NUMBER: 618-960-9594	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: LAKESIDE WARRIORS		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 140 CHARLESTON DR			
CITY: LAKE OZARK		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65049
EMAIL: dixd10@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/27/2026 7:41 AM	

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These heroes deserve at the least a tax break as almost every other state offers it to them.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: EDWIN B FARNHAM		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/27/2026 11:29 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: EVA MALONEY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 12:54 PM

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?? ACTION NEEDED – Disabled Veteran Property Tax Bills ??

The Missouri House Veterans Committee is holding a hearing on several Disabled Veteran Property Tax bills.

?? Tuesday, March 3, 2026

? 12:00 PM

?? House Hearing Room 7

?? Watch Live Here:

[https://house.mo.gov/CommitteeDetail.aspx?](https://house.mo.gov/CommitteeDetail.aspx?category=all&year=2026&code=R&cluster=true&committee=4346&nid=11308)

[category=all&year=2026&code=R&cluster=true&committee=4346&nid=11308](https://house.mo.gov/CommitteeDetail.aspx?category=all&year=2026&code=R&cluster=true&committee=4346&nid=11308)

Bills Being Heard Include:

- 4 statewide homestead exemption bills (tiered property tax relief based on VA disability rating)
- 2 county-option real property tax credit bills
- 1 county-option personal property tax bill (up to two vehicles)

This hearing will help determine which bills move forward.

?? Submit Testimony Here:

<https://witness.house.mo.gov/Default.aspx?bill=HB2276¬iceid=11308>

You do NOT have to attend in person.

When submitting testimony:

- **Select ALL of the disabled veteran property tax bills listed for the hearing.**
- **The same written statement can be copied and submitted for each bill.**

Why Your Testimony Matters

Legislators notice when veterans speak up.

Even a short statement:

- **Shows support**
 - **Helps move bills forward**
 - **Reminds lawmakers this affects real Missouri veterans and families**
- If veterans do not engage, lawmakers assume the issue is not urgent.**

?? Simple Testimony Example (Copy and Paste)

If you are unsure what to write, you can use this:

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

**I am a Missouri veteran and I support legislation that provides property tax relief for disabled veterans. Rising property taxes impact veterans and their families across our state. Please move these bills forward so disabled veterans can receive the relief they have earned through their service. Thank you for your consideration.
Please share this with other Missouri veterans.**



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: HANNA MAREE LYON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 10:25 AM
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I am a Missouri veteran and I support legislation that provides property tax relief for disabled veterans. Rising property taxes affect veterans and their families across our state. The boundary states offer tax benefits and breaks to veterans and MO should consider doing the same, as to prevent border city residents from leaving the state due to more affordable housing/homestead and property tax costs. Please move these bills forward. Thank you



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: HAROLD C. BENNE III		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 2:48 PM
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Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am a retired USAF veteran with a VA disability, and I am writing to you today in strong support of legislation that provides property tax relief for disabled veterans.

After serving our country, many of us face the tough decision of where to settle and plant our roots. I chose to make my home in Missouri, drawn to its conservative values and the sense of community I've always appreciated, having grown up just across the river in Illinois. However, I have many friends and fellow veterans with disability ratings who have made the difficult choice to live in Illinois. They would prefer to live in Missouri, but the significant property tax benefits for disabled veterans in Illinois make it a much more financially viable option for them and their families.

This creates a conundrum for those who have sacrificed for our nation. They are forced to choose between the state they love and the tax relief they have rightfully earned. Rising property taxes impact veterans and their families across our state, and passing this legislation would provide much-needed relief. It would also encourage more of our nation's heroes to call Missouri home.

I urge you to move these bills forward and give disabled veterans the relief they have earned through their service. Thank you for your time and consideration.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JACOB KING		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2026 7:57 PM
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Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am a Missouri veteran writing in support of legislation that would provide property tax relief for disabled veterans. Many veterans and their families are feeling the strain of rising property taxes, and this relief would make a meaningful difference. I respectfully ask that you advance these bills so disabled veterans can receive the support they have earned through their service and sacrifice. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.



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WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2089		DATE: 3/3/2026	
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JASON HOLDERIEATH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2026 2:45 PM

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

I served in Iraq in '04-'05 with the 1140th and in Afghanistan in 2008 with the 935th ADT. Some kind of relief from property taxes for disabled veterans is needed. Many of us answered the call in the Missouri National Guard, and even if we were with different units, we answered the call, and for many of us, we have paid a cost with our health. Many of us face employment difficulties that we might not face if we didn't have these problems. The state has a responsibility to care for and provide for veterans, especially disabled veterans. Since many veterans face these challenges, property taxes, especially on our homes, can be a real problem. The great thing about owning your home is that equity builds as the property gains value. This also creates a problem when assessed value growth exceeds income growth.

In short, I support these bills on the whole.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2089		DATE: 3/3/2026
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JAY RUARK		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/27/2026 6:19 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am a Missouri veteran and I support legislation that provides property tax relief for disabled veterans. Rising property taxes impact veterans and their families across our state. Please move these bills forward so disabled veterans can receive the relief they have earned through their service. Thank you for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2089		DATE: 3/3/2026
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JAYME BODI		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 11:53 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am a Missouri veteran and I support legislation that provides property tax relief for disabled veterans. Rising property taxes impact veterans and their families across our state. Please move these bills forward so disabled veterans can receive the relief they have earned through their service. Thank you for your consideration



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2089		DATE: 3/3/2026
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JEFFREY CAQUELIN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 12:40 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am a Missouri veteran and I support legislation that provides property tax relief for disabled veterans. Rising property taxes impact veterans and their families across our state. Please move these bills forward so disabled veterans can receive the relief they have earned through their service. Thank you for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2089		DATE: 3/3/2026	
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JEREMY NICHOLS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 9:14 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

This keeps Missouri competitive with our neighbors and brings disabled veterans here to Missouri with their dollars to spend in the economy.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2089		DATE: 3/3/2026
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JOSEPH CLARKSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/1/2026 12:01 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Please support HB2089 as this has impacted many young soldiers that rely solely on there VA disability as they do not qualify for social security due to not being able to work 40 quarters for social security !



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2089		DATE: 3/3/2026	
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOSEPH G CLARKSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/5/2026 11:07 PM	

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

First I would like to say thank you for looking out for Disabled Veterans who bore the cost for everyone's freedom. I had the job of a lifetime with IBEW Local 1 as a commercial and industrial electrical . I injured my back driving from a mortar attack. We got attacked so frequently that my back just got worse due constantly diving for cover. The Army and the VA had me on 800 mg of ibuprofen 2 times a day for 10'years. I was still in tremendous pain and wound up taking a job at the VA that paid 7 dollars an hour less, you had to pay for your medical health insurance and had a pension plan that is dramatically inferior . Also , I developed 4 respiratory disease and liver disease due to toxic exposures from burn pits and fires. Myself and many others would not be able to work due to constant doctors appointments. I thank God i had the opportunity to work at the VA till the VA said I was too high a risk. There is dignity in work. Also, all of our surrounding states offer a property tax exemption. Many people choose to live i our border states because of this and they spend their Federal dollars in those states. I feel we are well past the time to look out for our veterans and the families of these veterans. Please support this bill. I would like to see this bill combined with other similar bills so we get something passed this year.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2089		DATE: 3/3/2026
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KELLIS RICHARDSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 6:58 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kellis Richardson, and I am a Missouri veteran writing in support of legislation that provides property tax relief for disabled veterans.

Rising property taxes are placing an increasing burden on veterans and their families across our state. Many disabled veterans live on fixed incomes, and these increases can create real financial hardship. Providing meaningful property tax relief is a practical and well-deserved way to honor their service and sacrifice.

I respectfully urge you to move these bills forward so that disabled veterans can receive the relief they have earned through their service to our nation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2089		DATE: 3/3/2026
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MAGHEN LARSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 1:05 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Myself and my veteran husband moved back to Missouri after his time in service. The rising property tax rates in our county continue to push our finances. This relief shows the continued support Our state has for our veterans. Please continue to move it forward.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2089		DATE: 3/3/2026	
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARILYN VILLEGAS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 1:30 PM	

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

My family is currently looking at homes in Arkansas, Texas, Florida and Oklahoma where we would be offered property and personal property tax exemption (I am 100% P&T disabled). For property and personal property taxes every year, we pay approximately \$5,000.

Some might think pay for being 100% P&T alone is sufficient to raise a family. But \$4,500 for an entire month for a family of 5 doesn't go as far as you'd think. Keep in mind, most 100% disabled veterans can't work. There is no option for a temporary second job or overtime when unexpected expenses arise. With inflated property values rising 4 times what they were in 2019, and Lafayette County raising valuations 15% (let's not play coy to the fact that they will continue to rise by 15% every two years until valuations reach the ridiculously inflated current market value), and every tax receiving entity begging for tax increases almost every year...how can you expect Missouri's most badly injured and vulnerable veterans to be able to remain residents here? That last sentence says so much...our nation's most badly injured veterans. Some states actually show they care about these veterans sacrifice. Some states waive property and personal property taxes. Oklahoma waives up to \$25,000 worth of sales tax every single year for disabled veterans IN ADDITION to no personal property or property tax. What does Missouri offer? A free fishing license and license plate. Thank you, Missouri...for the \$50 savings. It is time for Missouri law makers to put up or shut up. Stop kicking the can down the road and pretending you care about our states most badly injured veterans and take action.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2089		DATE: 3/3/2026
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARK NEWTON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 1:49 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

**I am a 100% disabled veteran and support any tax relief whether for all Missouri citizens or Veterans.
Get rid of our personal property taxes and lower our real property taxes.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2089		DATE: 3/3/2026
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARK S HALL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2026 2:23 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am a Missouri veteran and I support any legislation that provides property tax relief for our Veterans. Rising property taxes across our State greatly impact our Veterans and their families. Please move these bills forward so we may continue to honor the sacrifices made by our disabled Veterans and provide them much needed relief.

Thank you for your consideration and support.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2089		DATE: 3/3/2026	
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL DOUGLAS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 7:38 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I fully support tax benefits for disabled veterans and their surviving spouses. Not only have they honorably fought for our country, but a tiered exemption would be in line with neighboring states and other states around the country. Providing an exemption to property and personal property taxes would keep Missouri veterans in the homes they've defended and the communities they love.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2089		DATE: 3/3/2026
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL KEESEY II		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 12:13 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am a Missouri veteran and I support legislation that provides property tax relief for disabled veterans. Rising property taxes impact veterans and their families across our state. Please move these bills forward so disabled veterans can receive the relief they have earned through their service. Thank you for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2089		DATE: 3/3/2026	
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL WOOTEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 12:06 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As a combat veteran and about to medically retired from the MOARNG (nearly 27 years with 22 of that active duty), we should be able to feel secure that no matter our future, our homes will forever be our homes. Our vehicles, once paid off, will forever be our vehicles. Property tax is a means that the gov can steal our vehicle and/or property if we end up in a position where we cannot pay these insane taxes year after year after year for decades. This is not what we fought for and not what our founding fathers desired for our nation. Get rid of these burdensome taxes now!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2089		DATE: 3/3/2026
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: RAYMOND CLIFTON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/27/2026 5:32 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2089		DATE: 3/3/2026
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: RONALD JOSEPH JONES		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 1:43 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2089		DATE: 3/3/2026
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: RYAN CHARLES		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 12:15 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Chairman and Members of the Committee,
I am a Missouri veteran and I support legislation that provides property tax relief for disabled veterans. Rising property taxes affect veterans and their families across our state. Please move these bills forward. Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2089		DATE: 3/3/2026
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SARA BENNE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 3:11 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am a 16-year Air Force Veteran with a VA disability, and I am writing to you today in strong support of legislation providing property tax relief for disabled veterans.

After serving our country for nearly two decades, I faced the pivotal decision of where to plant my roots. I chose to make my home in Missouri, drawn by its values and the sense of community I've always appreciated, like what I grew up with in Arizona. However, many of my fellow veterans with disability ratings have made the difficult choice to remain in Illinois. While they would prefer to live here in Missouri, the significant property tax benefits offered by Illinois make it the only financially viable option for their families.

This creates a painful conundrum for those who have sacrificed for our nation. They are forced to choose between the state they love and the tax relief they have rightfully earned. Rising property taxes are squeezing veteran families across our state; passing this legislation would provide much-needed stability and ensure that Missouri is not just a place veterans want to live, but a place they can afford to live.

I urge you to move these bills forward and honor the service of Missouri's disabled veterans. Thank you for your time and consideration



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2089		DATE: 3/3/2026
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SAVA-MARIE SHELTON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 1:33 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Please stand behind any tax bill that benefits our Veterans. They made a commitment to our country. Now you need to make a commitment to them. Any exemptions would keep Veterans in their homes. Also not having to choose to buy groceries, medication or pay their bills.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2089		DATE: 3/3/2026	
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHANNON LEAL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 10:49 PM	

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

My husband is a disabled veteran and I his spouse. I have dutifully stayed by his side for the last 20years. Since becoming disabled due to his active duty service.. life has been a depressing struggle for him. In the recent years he has become more than 100% disabled and unable to supplement his disability income. I do not mind working my tail off but he's left feeling depressed and worse at times. Since buying our home in 2021 the property taxes have increased to the point we are paying nearly \$900 more a month than we originally were. We could go back to our home state which supports veterans already with no property taxes but we choose to stay here in the beautiful state of Missouri. Please help honor not only my disabled husband but all the other veterans across the great state of Missouri as well. I promise these sweet people are more than worth the kindness



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2089		DATE: 3/3/2026	
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SONYA ZIMMERLE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 12:35 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As a disabled veteran with a 100% disability rating and unable to work this bill would provide a great relief to myself on a fixed income.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2089		DATE: 3/3/2026
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: STEVEN BOTTOM		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 2:58 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am a Missouri veteran and I support legislation that provides property tax relief for disabled veterans. Rising property taxes impact veterans and their families across our state. Please move these bills forward so disabled veterans can receive the relief they have earned through their service. Thank you for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2089		DATE: 3/3/2026
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: TANASTACIA WATSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 11:27 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tanastacia Watson. I am 27 years old, a Clay County resident, and a 100% Permanent & Total disabled veteran.

I live with advanced heart failure and have undergone multiple heart transplant evaluations due to my service-connected condition. I was medically retired and am permanently unable to work.

I am raising two young children on fixed VA disability compensation. My earning capacity is permanently gone, but property taxes continue to rise.

For permanently disabled veterans, stable housing is not a luxury it is essential. I respectfully ask that you move forward meaningful property tax relief for Missouri's disabled veterans.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Tanastacia Watson
Clay County, Missouri



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2089		DATE: 3/3/2026
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: THOMAS ASCIONE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2026 9:18 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Chairman and Members of the Committee,
I am a Missouri veteran and I support legislation that provides property tax relief for disabled veterans.
Rising property taxes affect veterans and their families across our state. Please move these bills forward. Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2089		DATE: 3/3/2026	
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TONY LASZACS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2089		DATE: 3/3/2026	
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: TONY SHEPHERD		PHONE NUMBER: 636-240-5009	
REPRESENTING: ABATE FOR MISSOURI		TITLE: LOBBYIST	
ADDRESS: 500 HIGHWAY P			
CITY: O FALLON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63366
EMAIL: abatemo@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/1/2026 7:05 PM	
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2089		DATE: 3/3/2026	
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: WILLIAM BLAYLOCK		PHONE NUMBER: 314-799-1137	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI NATIONAL GUARD ASSOC.		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 2302 MILITIA AVE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. A.C. "HONEST ABE" DIENOFF		PHONE NUMBER: 314-440-9000	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCACY		TITLE: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1535			
CITY: O'FALLON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63366
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2089		DATE: 3/3/2026
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 8:04 AM
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HB 2089 creates a tiered property tax exemption for disabled veterans and certain surviving spouses, including a full exemption for veterans rated 70% or more disabled and for qualifying surviving spouses.

While honoring disabled veterans is a legitimate public purpose, this bill presents structural constitutional exposure in the following areas:

1. Uniformity of Taxation — Missouri Constitution Article X, §§ 3 and 6

Missouri’s Constitution requires taxation to be uniform within classes of property. Article X, § 6 permits certain exemptions, but courts scrutinize preferential tax treatment to ensure it fits squarely within authorized constitutional exemptions.

Because HB 2089 creates a value-capped exemption and a disability-tiered structure, litigation risk exists if the classification is challenged as creating non-uniform treatment within the same subclass of residential real property without clear constitutional grounding.

2. Equal Protection — Disability Percentage Thresholds

The bill creates graduated exemptions based on VA disability ratings (30%, 50%, 70%, 100%).

While veteran status is not a suspect classification, unequal tax treatment based on disability percentage may invite rational-basis challenges if the tiered amounts are argued to be arbitrary or fiscally disconnected from legislative findings.

3. Commercial Use Presumption

The bill presumes commercial use if property is rented for more than six months.

This presumption may create due process concerns if applied rigidly without individualized determination, particularly where partial rental does not alter primary homestead status.

4. Nonseverability Clause — Rulemaking Provision

Section 9 makes the grant of rulemaking authority and all rules void if legislative review provisions

under Chapter 536 are held unconstitutional.

This nonseverability trigger creates structural instability. If legislative review authority is invalidated, the entire administrative implementation could collapse, inviting separation-of-powers litigation under Missouri Constitution Article II, § 1.

Legislative Notice:

The General Assembly is placed on notice that HB 2089's tiered disability-based property tax exemptions, value limitations, commercial-use presumption, and nonseverable rulemaking structure create foreseeable litigation exposure under Missouri Constitution Article X (uniform taxation), equal protection principles, and separation-of-powers doctrine if classifications or implementation mechanisms are challenged.