



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2869		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Tax Reform			
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: AARON HARTLEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:16 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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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: 2/16/2026 8:32 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

The current exemption on applies to veterans who are disabled and former POWs. That is approximately eight Veterans in the State of Missouri. Every state surrounding Missouri offers tax exemption to disabled veterans. It is time for Missouri to honor their promise to veterans! Please allow the voters to decide. Disabled Veterans are struggling with the cost of inflation and need this to survive.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CHERYL THAYER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:27 PM
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As a 30 year, retired, Veteran I fully support ANY tax credit for disabled veterans. I am 100% service connected.

Let's move Missouri forward and show the country we care about Missouri Veterans.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DAVID KAUFMAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 9:39 PM
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For veterans with handicap license plates. We/they deserve it.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVID LEE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:43 PM	
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Please pass this bill



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: GERALD RICHARD GARTLAND		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:46 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Disabled veterans have proudly served their country and their state of residence. We owe it to them to make their quality of life better. They can't function like they once did while serving our country. They are forgotten by many states. Why do we allow missou to be one of those states. What message are we sending future veterans about our states support or lack of.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JACKIE R DEGGINGER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:28 PM
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It will help



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JEFF BORNEFELD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 9:16 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JOSEPH CLARKSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:13 PM
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Please pass HB 2869. I took a job making 7 dollars less per and gave up my paid free medical due to war related injuries and toxic exposure causing multiple diseases. This is a massive financial hardship which this bill would start to elevate.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KELLIS RICHARDSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:18 AM
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I believe the veterans that served this nation have given enough to this country. And the majority of them continue to serve in some capacity through their local VFW's and other nonprofit organizations.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KEVIN SEYMOUR		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 6:50 AM
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Veterans deserve a break on property tax



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KEVIN WOLFE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 4:57 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Witness Statement: SUPPORT for HB 2869

TO: House Committee on Ways and Means (or the scheduled hearing committee)

FROM: Kevin R Wolfe, Army Veteran

DATE: February 17, 2026

RE: Support of HB 2869 – Local Real Property Tax Credit for Disabled Veterans

To Chairman Jones and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

My name is Kevin R Wolfe, and I am a resident of Boone County. I served in the Army from 1996 to 2005. Today, I am classified by the VA as a 100% service-connected disabled veteran. I am writing to strongly urge your support for HB 2869.

When I transitioned out of the military and returned to Missouri, I chose to plant roots here because of our state's reputation for honoring those who served. However, for a veteran living with a total disability, "fixed income" isn't just a term—it is a daily reality.

While my VA disability compensation is adjusted for inflation, it does not keep pace with the aggressive rise in local property assessments. In recent years, many of my fellow disabled veterans have seen their property taxes jump by 20% or 30% in a single cycle. We are effectively being "taxed out" of the homes we fought to defend.

HB 2869 is a common-sense solution because:

*** It Empowers Locals: This bill doesn't mandate a one-size-fits-all approach; it gives our local taxing jurisdictions the option to look after their own veterans.**

*** It Provides Certainty: By allowing for a real property tax credit, this bill ensures that a 100% disabled veteran won't lose their home because of a volatile housing market they didn't create.**

*** It Recognizes Sacrifice: A 100% disability rating means the VA has determined a veteran is unable to maintain "substantially gainful employment." We cannot simply "work more hours" to pay an increased**

tax bill.

I have given my health and my mobility to this country. I am asking the State of Missouri to give me the peace of mind that I can grow old in my own home.

Please vote "Do Pass" on HB 2869 to provide a path for local relief for Missouri's most severely injured heroes.

Respectfully submitted,

**Kevin R Wolfe
18210 Old Hwy 63 N
Sturgeon, MO 65284
kevin.wolfe78@gmail.com
573-296-8992**



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LEE STEWART		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:03 AM
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Stop hurting vets.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LISA BEQUETTE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 7:57 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARTY ALTERSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 10:15 AM
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On behalf of ALL Veterans of Missouri, I support this bill and would be a very grateful Veteran with your support



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MATHIAS JUNGERS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 5:51 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I'm a disabled veteran with 20 years of service, multiple combat deployments. It's time for Missouri to step up and support its citizens that sacrificed the most for our country and state. Our state legislatures should be embarrassed and ashamed of themselves. So many other states have been doing this for a long time. Stop making us continue to suffer. Do the right thing.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL W SCHROEDER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-636-9998	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS (VFW)		TITLE: LEGISLATIVE CO-CHAIRMAN	
ADDRESS: 3401 KNIPP DRIVE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL: legislativechrm2@movfw.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 6:25 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

**Special Committee on Tax Reform
February 19, 2026**

Chairman Coleman and members of the committee:

Good morning, Chairman Coleman and members of the Committee.

My name is Mike Schroeder, National Legislative Committee member and Legislative Co-Chairmen for the Department of Missouri Veterans of Foreign Wars.

On behalf of the Department of Missouri VFW, we strongly support the Missouri Association of Veterans Organization (MAVO) regarding HB 2869.

This bill creates a local property tax credit for disabled veterans, giving counties the choice to participate while ensuring support goes directly to those with service-connected disabilities.

For many disabled veterans living on fixed incomes, property taxes threaten their ability to stay in their homes. HB 2869 provides stability without shifting the burden to other taxpayers, and it protects local budgets by treating credits as revenue received.

The VFW proudly stands with the Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations (MAVO) in supporting this effort. HB 2869 is a responsible, targeted, and meaningful way for Missouri to honor the sacrifices of those who have borne the cost of our nation's defense.

Thank you for your time and for your continued commitment to Missouri's veterans.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHEAL BENOIT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 6:30 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MICHELLE SELESNICK		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 6:58 AM

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Missouri should adopt Illinois' comprehensive property tax exemptions for disabled veterans to better honor their sacrifices and provide meaningful financial relief. By implementing tiered reductions based on disability levels—starting at 30% and offering full exemptions for those at 70% or higher—Missouri could ensure broader access to benefits without relying on optional county programs, ultimately easing the burden on veterans and their families while fostering a more supportive environment for those who served. Having worked for the Department of veterans affairs for 22 years, I've had many Illinois veterans say they would rather live in Missouri, but can't because they don't offer the same property tax exemptions.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MIKE BATH		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:06 AM
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I am a disabled veteran with a 70% rating but also considered unemployable by the VA. I can not make more than the poverty limit per the VA.

I believe this should not apply to only those that are 100%, but also those veterans like myself that are considered total and permanent.

Passage of this would alleviate financial tax burdens with my limited income.

Thank you for you consideration of my testimony.

Mike Bath

6366887066



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: NATHAN A SHELTON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:28 AM
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Im in support of tax exemption for all vets.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: NATHAN THOMECZEK		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 10:07 AM
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I support this bill.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: RAYMOND CLIFTON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:21 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RONALD JOSEPH JONES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 5:15 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: RONNIE NEEDHAM		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:43 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: TIMOTHY MERCER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 9:34 PM
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I served 23+ years in the Air Force and Army. I am 100% disabled through the VA. I have a disability for a serious back injury, an eye injury, loss of hearing, PTSD, as well as being exposed to deadly chemicals overseas to which I have had cancer several times. It was my honor to serve my country. I feel my wife and I have given a lot to our country as all Veterans have. It would be a blessing to myself and my wife not to have to pay real property taxes. By passing this bill, it would honor all Veterans, and their spouses for the sacrifices we have given.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: TOMMY MCLERRAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 12:58 PM
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It's time we get onboard with our surrounding States and take care of our veterans. Our current vets are moving across State lines (KS, AR, and IL) to receive tax breaks taking away from businesses here in MO. Lose lose for everyone.



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: TROY WILLIAMS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-536-2434
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF VETERANS ORG. MAVO		TITLE: LEG. CHAIR
ADDRESS: 221 FREDERICKS LN		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 12:35 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am Opposed to this Bill. We already do more than any other State for Veterans. This Bill is very unfair to all of the other Missouri Residents who are 100% Disabled. This is bad Public-Policy and is unaffordable at the County, City and Special District Levels of providing services to Residents.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2869		DATE: 2/19/2026
COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Tax Reform		
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: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 11:58 PM

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

I am Opposed to this Bill. This Bill is very Unfair and Unconstitutional to all other Missouri Disabled Citizens.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2869		DATE: 2/19/2026
COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Tax Reform		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: ZACHARY WYATT		PHONE NUMBER: 573-751-0191
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE		TITLE: LEG. DIRECTOR
ADDRESS:		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY	STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		