

Lindsay Edwards  
Windham  
LD 888

Thank you for accepting my written testimony. I am a resident of Windham and the wife of a OIF USMC Combat Veteran who is permanently and totally disabled due to his service to this country. I am writing in support of LD #888. I recognize that we live in a divisive political environment. My hope is that for this bill, our legislators can set aside partisanship and come together to support those who live with the lasting effects of having stood between us and those who wish to do us harm.

During my nearly 15 years of marriage to a disabled veteran, there is one lesson that I have learned with absolute certainty. This lesson is that the price that our disabled veterans have paid through the lifelong physical and mental toll of their service can never be repaid. The impact of catastrophic injuries as well as injuries such as the loss of hearing, cognitive function due to TBI, the loss of quiet due to tinnitus, the daily physical pain and the mental toll of PTSD is staggering. Simply put, there is no benefit that can make up for the loss normalcy. They have already paid a price over and above anything that they will ever receive in return and the price will continue to be paid by them each and every day for life.

The purpose of this tax exemption is to honor and assist veterans who have sacrificed for our country. Many veterans face challenges when transitioning from military to civilian life, including physical and mental health issues and financial struggles. This exemption provides vital financial relief, assisting veterans to remain in their homes and support their families. Additionally, this exemption also serves as a recognition of the sacrifices made by our nation's veterans, particularly our disabled veterans.

In conclusion, I urge our legislators to continue expanding disabled veteran tax exemptions and ensure that exemptions remain available to those who have physically and psychologically sacrificed so much in defense of our nation. These exemptions are a small but meaningful way to show our gratitude for their service and our commitment to those who choose to serve in our volunteer military. Thank you for your consideration and support.

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