

County Executive
David Villanueva

Governmental Relations and
Legislative Officer
Elisia De Bord



County of Sacramento

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August 22, 2025

The Honorable Buffy Wicks, Chair
Assembly Appropriations
1021 O Street, Suite 1100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 694 (Archuleta) - Veteran Benefits Protection Act. - Support

Dear Assembly Member Wicks:

On behalf of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, I write to support SB 694 (Archuleta) to protect veterans and service members from predatory actors who charge excessive or illegal fees to assist with benefits claims.

Currently, unaccredited individuals take advantage of veterans by charging unreasonable rates, requiring access to personal login credentials, or providing misleading information. These practices impose unnecessary financial burdens and jeopardize the privacy and security of those who served our nation.

SB 694 will address these problems by clearly defining "unreasonable fees," prohibiting the improper use of personal credentials, and enhancing enforcement authority to hold violators accountable. This will ensure that veterans have access to legitimate, accredited, and no cost or low-cost claims assistance, as intended under federal law.

Sacramento County is home to a large and diverse veteran community, and SB 694 ensures that our service members receive well-earned benefits without fear of exploitation. SB 694 strengthens trust in the claims process and safeguards the well-being of veterans and their families. For these reasons, Sacramento County supports SB 694. Please feel free to contact me at (916) 874-4627 or deborde@sacounty.gov.

Sincerely,

Elisia De Bord
Governmental Relations and Legislative Officer

cc: Sacramento County Delegation
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
Audrey Ratajczak, Cruz Strategies