

# SB-1529

## Veterans Homes



Prepared by the  
ELDERLY CARE  
EVERYWHERE POLICY  
TEAM



## ELDERLY CARE EVERYWHERE

Largest youth lobbying group for senior citizens and senior care in California.

# Executive Summary

SB 1529, introduced by the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs during the 2023-2024 Regular Session of the California Legislature, represents a pivotal legislative proposal that seeks to substantially amend the Military and Veterans Code in terms of the management and eligibility criteria for veterans' homes in California. This bill aims to refine and clarify the conditions under which veterans, along with their spouses or domestic partners, can maintain residency in these facilities. It delineates a more structured framework for prioritizing admissions, with an emphasis on service-connected disabilities and other significant factors that should influence entry preferences.

The bill mandates that veterans and their spouses or domestic partners must comply with specific residency regulations prescribed by the Department of Veterans Affairs. It introduces a prioritization scheme for residency that especially favors Medal of Honor recipients, former prisoners of war, or those with considerable service-connected disabilities. Furthermore, SB 1529 brings in stringent accountability measures designed to safeguard the integrity of the application process. This includes imposing severe penalties for any omission or falsification of necessary information by applicants, thereby enhancing transparency and fostering trust in the management of veterans' homes.

Additionally, SB 1529 strengthens California's commitment to its veteran community by ensuring that the state-operated veterans' homes are both accessible and supportive. It tackles the administrative challenges inherent in managing these homes by establishing explicit criteria for eligibility and prioritization. This approach promises fair and efficient processing of applications and also mandates ongoing reviews and revisions to the admission guidelines to keep pace with the changing needs of the veteran population. These changes are intended to guarantee that veterans receive the respect and care they merit in their later years.

By revising sections of the Military and Veterans Code, SB 1529 aims to elevate the operational standards and refine the residency criteria for veterans' homes. This legislative initiative is crucial as it helps California continue to adapt its services to better meet the evolving needs of its veterans. In essence, SB 1529 represents a major legislative effort that not only updates the governance and admissions processes for veterans' homes but also underscores California's dedication to honoring and supporting its veterans. This measure is essential as the state strives to provide its veterans with quality care and support, a reflection of its deep gratitude for their service and sacrifices. The bill, therefore, plays a vital role in shaping the future of veteran care in California, ensuring that those who served the nation are not forgotten and are provided with the highest level of support and acknowledgment.



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### Our Position

Elderly Care Everywhere strongly supports Senate Bill 1529 (SB 1529), introduced by the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs. This legislation proposes critical amendments to the Military and Veterans Code regarding veterans' homes, making significant improvements to the eligibility and admissions processes for veterans and their spouses or domestic partners.

SB 1529 revises the conditions under which spouses and domestic partners can join veterans in these homes, simplifying the requirements for joint residency, which better aligns with the everyday needs and realities of veterans and their families. It also clarifies the priority admission processes for veterans, ensuring that those most in need, such as veterans with a service-connected disability rating of 70% or greater, receive the prioritization they deserve.

Furthermore, this bill strengthens the integrity of the application process by specifying that the omission or falsification of any essential information, including financial and medical details, can lead to denial of admission or discharge. This provision is vital for maintaining the system's fairness and ensuring that resources are directed to those most in need.

By refining the operational definitions and enhancing the admission criteria, SB 1529 demonstrates a robust commitment to the welfare of our veterans. It ensures that our veterans' homes operate more transparently and justly, reflecting our values of honoring and supporting those who have served our country.

The bill also importantly recognizes the evolving demographic and service-related needs of our veteran population, ensuring that the most vulnerable, along with their families, are cared for appropriately. Elderly Care Everywhere believes that supporting SB 1529 is crucial for improving the quality of life for our veterans and their families, providing them with the dignity and respect they deserve.

SB 1529 also facilitates better integration of veterans into these homes by removing bureaucratic obstacles, which can often delay or complicate the admission process. By streamlining these processes, the bill ensures that veterans receive timely access to the care and support they need.

In conclusion, SB 1529 addresses logistical and administrative needs and sets a precedent for compassionate treatment of veterans in state facilities. We urge all stakeholders to support this legislation, affirming our commitment to the health and well-being of our veteran community. By backing SB 1529, we advocate for a future where veterans are valued and their sacrifices recognized, fostering a community where they can thrive with dignity.



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# Letter of Support for SB-1529

June 2, 2024

The Honorable Pilar Schiavo, Chair  
Assembly Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### Re: Support for SB 1529

Dear Assembly Member Schiavo and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Elderly Care Everywhere, I write in strong support of SB 1529, which prioritizes the integration of veterans' homes under the County Employees Retirement Law of 1937 (CERL) into the retirement benefits system.

SB 1529 is essential for ensuring veterans, including seniors, access stable and secure retirement benefits. Including veterans' homes under CERL will provide much-needed financial stability to those who have dedicated their lives to serving our country. This bill acknowledges the unique sacrifices made by our senior veterans and ensures that they are not overlooked in their retirement years.

According to the Public Policy Institute of California, there are over 1.6 million veterans in California, with a significant portion being seniors who rely on state-supported retirement systems for their livelihood. SB 1529 will enhance the support structure for these individuals by integrating their retirement benefits into a more comprehensive system, thus promoting better financial security and quality of life for our senior veterans.

Furthermore, the bill will streamline the management and allocation of retirement funds, making it easier for senior veterans to access the benefits they deserve. By ensuring that these funds are efficiently managed, SB 1529 will help prevent any gaps or delays in benefit distribution, thereby providing timely and reliable financial support to our elderly veterans.

We strongly urge you to vote in favor of SB 1529, which would support the financial stability and well-being of our senior veterans.

Sincerely,  
Aakrisht Mehra  
Founder/CEO  
Elderly Care Everywhere



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# **About Elderly Care Everywhere**

Elderly Care Everywhere is a transformative nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of senior citizens. Since its inception, the organization has positively impacted over 40,000 seniors through a variety of programs aimed at enhancing their quality of life.

Elderly Care Everywhere has been instrumental in alleviating hundreds of thousands of dollars in medical debt, ensuring that seniors have access to the healthcare they need without the burden of financial stress. With more than 20 chapters across the United States, the organization extends its reach and resources to numerous communities, providing support and advocacy on a national scale.

Beyond U.S. borders, Elderly Care Everywhere has established flood relief camps in India, showcasing its commitment to global humanitarian efforts. The organization's impactful work has been recognized by the government of New Delhi, further highlighting its significant contributions to senior care and welfare. Through these efforts, Elderly Care Everywhere continues to lead the way in senior advocacy, ensuring that the elderly are treated with dignity and respect worldwide.

Thank you for your support of SB-1529. If you have any questions, feel free to email us at [connect@elderlycareeverywhere.org](mailto:connect@elderlycareeverywhere.org)