COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

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July 15, 2014

The Honorable Jim Frazier
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 935 (Frazier) – As Amended June 9, 2014 - **SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Frazier:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 935, which would allow California veterans to apply for a veteran designation on their driver licenses or state identification cards issued through the Department of Motor Vehicles.

California veterans are eligible for a number of federal, state and local benefits and services such as housing assistance, counseling and educational opportunities. However, accessing these benefits requires veterans to supply a DD Form 214 (DD-214), Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty issued upon a military service member's retirement, separation or discharge from active-duty military. The DD-214 discharge papers serve as verification of service. The document also contains personal information and is impractical to carry around. This often prevents veterans from accessing available veterans' benefits and services.

AB 935 would provide a clear veteran designation on the front of a driver license or state identification, similar to the organ donor designation. Currently, more than 40 states provide a veteran designation on state-issued driver licenses and identification cards. This would serve as a convenient way to verify military service in order for veterans to readily access earned benefits.

This legislation would require local county veterans service offices, rather than the Department of Motor Vehicles, to certify a veteran's status. This would provide an additional opportunity to connect with veterans to provide service options that may have gone undiscovered. The designation could also help law enforcement officers identify those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder or other combat-related ailments.

For the above reasons, the County of San Bernardino supports AB 935 and thanks you for addressing this important issue. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs, at (909) 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

Janice

JANICE RUTHERFORD
Board of Supervisors Chair
Second District Supervisor
County of San Bernardino

c: Members and Consultants, Senate Appropriations Committee
County of San Bernardino Legislative Delegation