 **Request For Support**

The Arkansas State Veterans Coalition (“AVC”) is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization comprised of Arkansas affiliates of nationally chartered/recognized veterans, military, uniformed services, and veterans service organizations, as well as similar local not-for-profit organizations with common goals. They work in joint pursuit to represent issues affecting the 197,000+ Arkansas Veterans and their families.

As reflected in AVC’s Press Release (enclosed), March 18, 2022, the AVC Members unanimously voted to support introduction of legislation for limited exemption of the 6.5% State Sales Tax for 100% Arkansas Disabled Veterans at the Point-Of-Sale.

July 15, 2022, the AVC Members voted to seek the Governor’s and the Legislature’s support in having this item as part of the Special Session convening August 8th.

The Governor has been approached to secure his support and adding this item to the Special Session. Although the Governor has stated he would keep this request in mind, thus far, he has not committed to do so.

The AVC is asking for your support by asking you to:

1. Contact the Governor’s Office expressing your support and asking the Governor to include this item as part of his August 8th Special Session Agenda.
2. Contacting each State Representative and State Senator in your area to ask them to:
	1. Contact the Governor asking him to include this item as part of his agenda, and
	2. In the event the Governor does not add this item to his agenda, exercise your authority to introduce legislation outside the specific agenda set by the Governor by passing a resolution by 2/3’s vote in each Chamber allowing consideration of “new business”, and
	3. Come to the Capitol on August 8th and speak with your Legislators and provide a “visual statement” to the Governor and other Legislators the level of support this item has from the “Statewide Veteran Community”.

One of most effective ways to encourage the Governor and your area Legislators is to mail them a letter. A letter “sends the message” you are passionate about an issue and if there is one veteran that send a physical letter, there are several more that feel the same way that did not send a letter.

Other ways of “making your opinion and support known” is by sending an email followed up by a phone call.

The most impactful way is to mail a letter, send an email, call them, and show up at the Capitol on August 8th.

To assist you in these efforts, attached are:

1. An “AVC Briefing Document” and the AVC’s Press Release that has *already been provided* to the Governor and each State Legislator. This has been included to provide you the same information to you for your understanding of the issue and AVC’s position.

*Note: As they already have this information please do not resend to the Governor or Legislators.*

1. An “example letter” that you can modify and send to the Governor and your Legislators.
2. An “example email” you can modify to send to the Governor and your legislators.

*Note: Contact Information for the Governor and Legislators are on the next page.*

Lastly, for maximum impact, ***please share this information*** with other veterans and Veteran Service organizations you know and ask them to help us help Arkansas’ Disabled Veterans.

Respectfully,

Mark D. Diggs

AVC VP Pro Tempore

M: 501-442-1237

Mark@DiggsAndAssciates.com

**Contact information for the Governor:**

*Governor Asa Hutchinson
State Capitol Room 250
500 Woodlane Ave.
Little Rock, AR 72201*

*Phone:* *(501) 682-2345*

An email to the Governor can be sent using the following link:

<https://governor.arkansas.gov/online-services/contact-us/>

**Contact Information For Legislators:**

The following link will display a list of every legislator in the State (both Senators and Representatives) by name in alphabetical order. If you click on the name of a Legislator, it will display a personal email address and phone number you can use to contact them

<https://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/Legislators/List>

You can mail a letter to them at the following physical address:

Arkansas State Legislature

1 Capitol Mall, Fifth Floor
Little Rock, AR 72201

For Example:

The Honorable Cindy Crawford

Representative - District 76

Arkansas State legislature

1 Capitol Mall, Fifth Floor

Little Rock, AR 72201

**Sample Letter to the Governor**

The Honorable Asa Hutchinson
Arkansas Governor

State Capitol Room 250
500 Woodlane Ave.
Little Rock, AR 72201

 July 20, 2022

Dear Governor Hutchinson:

The purpose of this letter is to express my strong support for and ask you to include a proposal to provide limited Exemption for 100% Disable Veterans from the State’s 6.5% Sales Tax at the point-of-sale in your agenda for the August 8th Special Session.

Respectfully,

Joe Blow

State Commander

Military Order of the Purple Heart

**Sample Letter to a State Legislator (Senator – same format for State Representative, just change the salutation)**

The Honorable Dave Wallace
Arkansas Senator – District 22

Arkansas State legislature

1 Capitol Mall, Fifth Floor

Little Rock, AR 72201

 July 20, 2022

Dear Senator Wallace:

The purpose of this letter is to express my strong support for and ask you to:

1. Ask the Governor to include proposed legislation in the August 8th Special Session to provide Arkansas’ 100% Disabled Veterans limited exemption of the 6.5% State Sales Tax At-The-Point of Sale.
2. And, in the event the Governor opts to not include such proposed legislation, exercise the Legislature's authority to introduce and pass the proposed legislation.

Respectfully,

Joe Blow

State Commander

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**Sample Email to the Governor**

Dear Governor Hutchinson:

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