

# LATE TESTIMONY

Chair Will Espero, Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs  
Chair Josh Green, Senate Committee on Health  
Chair Suzanne Chun Oakland, Senate Committee on Human Services

RE: SB2603, Relating to Veterans

Wednesday, February 5, 2014  
1:25PM, Conference Room 229

I would like to offer my testimony and support of SB2603 regarding the establishment of a long-term care facility for veterans.

With an exorbitant amount of veterans returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan in conjunction with the aging veterans who have served this country in previous wars, there is an ever growing need to provide adequate facilities to care for their long-term care. There is an overwhelming number of veterans returning home with serious injuries that require extensive care and treatment and at current rate, it is almost impossible to keep up with this high demand of services by having available beds to house veterans in need of long-term care.

By building a new facility to accommodate the demand for long-term care services of veterans, it will allow for these men and women to receive the services they have earned in a timely manner. The number of aging veterans is growing every day and it is imperative that we anticipate this rapidly growing population and we establish the necessary facility to meet their needs.

It was estimated that the number of veterans over the age of 85 increased in population from roughly 278,000 to 681,000 between the years 2004 - 2012. This is a 145% increase in aging veterans over a span of 8 years. This number is going to keep growing. By the year 2035, today's veterans that are currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan will be middle-aged and will begin to show signs of health issues, just as we are currently seeing among our Vietnam veterans.

The building of more long-term care facilities for veterans is inevitable. It is our responsibility to ensure that these men and women who have sacrificed so much for our country are taken care of in their time of need.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration regarding such an important matter.

Sincerely,

Katherine Hope  
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