



**DAWN MARIE ADDIEGO**  
Senator

**RYAN PETERS**  
Assemblyman

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Assemblyman

Department of the Treasury  
P.O. Box 002  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0002

January 29, 2018

Dear New Jersey Acting Treasurer Elizabeth Muoio,

Tax season is approaching and a brand-new \$3,000 exemption is available to all veterans who served our country with honor. Although this is an important step in paying back our veterans for the sacrifices they made, it has come to our attention that a great deal of them do not know how to receive the exemption or aren't even aware of it.

We helped champion the Veterans Income Tax Exemption so that we could lighten the tax burden for our brave men and women who were honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces, but just passing legislation isn't enough. Every single person who is eligible for this exemption should receive it, and for that to happen, the State of New Jersey needs to put together an adequate public outreach campaign.

After speaking with our constituents, it is clear that there isn't enough attention being put on the introduction of this tax break. There should not be one veteran who files their taxes and receives their return without ever hearing a word about the Veteran Income Tax Exemption. The state must take a more comprehensive approach in addressing its rollout.

Along with the lack of knowledge that the exemption exists, there is also a lack of understanding on how to receive it. Constituents have reached out to us on numerous occasions detailing their confusion on how to go about collecting the exemption.

The Department of Treasury Division of Taxation has taken solid steps in clearing up confusion by adding an extension on its directory for questions about the Veterans Income Tax Exemption and a tab on its website with directions on how to get certified for it. It should further its educational efforts to the public by contacting veterans directly to inform them that these tools exist.

The 8<sup>th</sup> District Legislative Office has begun to put together our own outreach effort, including releasing step-by-step directions on how to get certified for the exemption, but our resources are limited and help from the state is needed.

If we work together to alert people about this benefit, we can make this tax season better for the 400,000 veterans of the state and more than 30,000 veterans in Burlington County who gave years of their lives for our freedom.

Sincerely,



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