

To: Senate Tax Committee Members:

I am writing in reference to Senate File 138 Disabled veterans' homestead market value exclusion spousal benefit modification.

My husband served in Vietnam War from 1967-1969 during which time they used Agent Orange, In 1995 he was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkins lymphoma which they attributed to Agent Orange. He was deemed 100% service connected disabled due to Agent Orange, He was treated for 14 years with chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant. He was 49 years old when diagnosed and died at age 63. I received 8 years of real estate tax exclusion, which helped me tremendously, and I am very grateful for this.

I went to the Veterans Office in January of this year to keep informed of my benefits, I was informed at that time of my current benefits and was also told I was a "sunsetter", When I asked what she meant, she informed me that widows of 100% disabled veterans are now entitled to this benefit for as long as they are in their home and it can also be transferred one additional time, When I inquired when this went into effect she stated in 2019 which meant that I was "sunset" only one year earlier. It doesn't seem fair that our benefits were discontinued after 8 years and now current benefits are granted until the surviving spouse leaves her home.

I would like to see this bill be reinstated for all widows of a 100% veteran who has died of their disability. This bill is needed for the continued hardships caused by the loss of a spouse.

Thank you in advance.

Elaine Kiffmeyer