



**Mark Meek**  
**State Senator**  
**District 20**

February 1, 2023

TO: Senate Committee on Finance & Revenue  
FROM: Senator Mark Meek  
SUBJECT: Support for SB 540

**Dear Colleagues,**

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support for SB 540. As both a veteran and as the son of a veteran who served in Vietnam, I know that our former service members often face unique challenges and circumstances upon their retirement from military service.

These circumstances too often lead to worse outcomes for veterans. In Oregon, veterans on average have lower household incomes and face higher rates of unemployment than their civilian counterparts (["Supporting Veterans in Oregon", Veterans Data Council. 2022](#)). I am proud of the progress our state has made in recent years to increase investments in programs that support veterans, but inequities between veterans and civilians in Oregon continue to persist.

SB 540 would recognize these inequities and the sacrifices made by former service members with modest yet meaningful tax relief. By joining other states that offer similar relief for military pensions, we will help attract more veterans to live in Oregon and show that our state values their contributions to our local communities.

Thank you for your consideration, I hope you will join me in supporting SB 540.

**Respectfully,**

**Mark Meek**  
**State Senator – Oregon Senate District 20**