

Submitter: Karissa Gratreak

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure: SB540

I fully support exempting state income tax from retirement for those who have served in the Armed Forces. Oregon is one of nine states that fully taxes Military retirement income. As Oregon is consistently ranked in the bottom five of military friendly states to retire in, I have watched many of my fellow brothers and sisters in arms along with a few of my family member military retirees in Oregon leave to protect their pensions as a cost of living allowance (COLA) adjustment typically doesn't cover what the consumer price index says it should. As a military retiree, I have a fixed amount of retirement income, adjusted for COLA. Your support of this bill would be a tremendous first step in rectifying the aforementioned issues. I have chosen to stay and raise a family here. I served 22 years in Oregon. Shouldn't we do something to protect that retirement income for those that served and didn't leave? Isn't that a choice we'd like more Oregonian military retirees to make? This bill can be a net win. Instead of losing those tax dollars as well as the money spent in our local cities and businesses when these retirees leave, there's an opportunity to have those tax savings put right back into our economy here. On a personal note, the Oregon Guard has a long standing history of harboring family legacy's such as my family, it would be sad to not have my family's legacy continue in Oregon because they can't afford to stay. Thank you for your time.