

Submitter: Daniel Cook  
On Behalf Of: North Bay RFPD  
Committee: Joint Committee On Tax Expenditures  
Measure: SB728

I am in favor of SB 728. I have been a volunteer firefighter for 14 years at North bay RFPD. I typically spend 10-30 hours a week volunteering and am always on duty while in my fire district where I live. I am self-employed and work out of my home so I am usually available to respond to 911 calls. Currently, I am a company officer (lieutenant), Firefighter 2, member of the county rope rescue team, EMT-I, and certified EMS and Fire Instructor. Incidentally, I was awarded the Oregon Medal of Valor in 2020 for my part in a commercial fishing boat rescue of three subjects in Coos Bay.

I am dedicated to helping my community. Unfortunately my income has been generally trending down over the past decade because I spend so much time in the fire service as opposed to my paid (self-employed software engineer) job. It would really help to receive this tax credit and my business income is probably about 20% of what it was 10 years ago. I am sure this decline is not all due to my time away from the office but it definitely has a lot to do with it.

Additionally, our roster of volunteering is approximately 50% lower than it was when I started. There are probably various reasons for this. It seems volunteering for anything, let alone something that requires a lot of training, is on the decline. I believe this tax credit will help convince some to volunteer to serve in the fire service and current volunteer, like myself, to continue to volunteer.