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On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2050

The men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces dedicate their lives to protecting our freedoms and maintaining national security. After years of service, often under extremely challenging and dangerous conditions, they deserve financial security in their retirement. One way to honor their sacrifice is to exempt military retirement income from taxation.

Fairness and Parity with Social Security: Social Security income is already exempt from federal taxation for the majority of recipients. Military retirees have also contributed significantly to the welfare of the nation, and many see their pensions as a form of deferred compensation for their service. Providing tax relief on military retirement income would create equity and align with the treatment of Social Security benefits.

Recognition of Sacrifice: Military personnel often endure hardships such as separation from family, high-stress deployments, and exposure to life-threatening situations. These sacrifices extend beyond a civilian career, making military retirement benefits unique in their purpose. Tax exemptions would serve as a tangible expression of gratitude for these sacrifices.

Moral Obligation: As a nation, we owe a debt of gratitude to those who have defended our country. Taxing military retirement income could be perceived as diminishing the value of their service. Exempting these benefits would be a meaningful step toward upholding our moral responsibility to honor their contributions.