

Submitter: michael dalzell  
On Behalf Of: retired military members  
Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2050

I'm a retired military service member, 1971 to 2003 US Navy. There are currently a number of states that exempt military retirement from state income tax. There are also a number of states that do not have income tax. When I first enlisted in the military it was at a time when it was not a very appreciated profession and was certainly not a very well paying profession. In fact my monthly pay was about \$180.00 a month. By the time I retired my pay had risen with my increase in rank and years of service but considering the frequent deployments and the physical risks inherent to military service, military service was still a poorly paid profession. Military service is a much more appreciated profession now then when I first enlisted and I believe that a state tax exemption would provide my fellow retirees a better, more financially secure retirement that would help compensate us for our service to America. Military veterans make up a small percentage of the population ( 6.1%) and retired military veterans an even smaller number ( 2.8 million ). Retired military service members average age at death is 67 years and most have service related medical issues. It is a physically and mentally demanding profession.

The number of retired military members in Oregon is 21,000 and the average monthly monetary benefit nationally is \$2840.00. Tax exempting retired military members in Oregon is a relatively small financial compensation in light of their service and sacrifice. Thank you for this opportunity to present this testimony and thanks you for your consideration.