

Submitter: Summer Sundseth

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2050

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen, veteran and advocate for veterans in Oregon. I would like to urge you to support the implementation of a tax exemption on veterans' pensions in our state. This crucial step would demonstrate our commitment to those who have served our country and would offer substantial benefits to the veteran community.

Currently, Oregon is one of the few states that does not provide a tax exemption on veterans' pensions. Many other states, such as Florida, Texas, and Nevada, have already adopted tax exemptions for military pensions, recognizing the unique sacrifices made by veterans during their service. In fact, approximately 30 states offer some form of pension tax relief for their veterans. These states understand that providing tax exemptions is an important way to honor veterans and ensure they can transition back to civilian life with financial security.

By offering a tax exemption on veterans' pensions, Oregon would align itself with these forward-thinking states, showing that we recognize and appreciate the sacrifices of our military personnel. Veterans often face challenges in reintegrating into civilian life, and providing them with financial relief can ease some of these burdens. A tax exemption would help reduce the financial stress many veterans face as they live on fixed incomes, supporting them in their retirement years.

The pension tax exemption could be a catalyst for attracting more veterans to Oregon, helping to grow the state's veteran population and bolster local economies. With more veterans choosing to retire in Oregon, there would be increased demand for goods, services, and housing, which would create jobs and stimulate the economy. I personally moved to Washington but will be moving back to Oregon. The tax exemption would be a welcomed benefit as my family will be moving back to Oregon.

I strongly believe that veterans who have dedicated themselves to protecting our freedoms deserve our support in return. By passing a tax exemption for veterans' pensions, Oregon would make an impactful gesture that demonstrates our state's gratitude for the service and sacrifices of those who have served in our military.

I respectfully ask that you consider introducing legislation or supporting any efforts that would create a tax exemption for veterans' pensions in Oregon. Your support in this matter would send a clear message that our state values the contributions of its

veterans and is committed to ensuring they are well cared for in their post-service years.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Summer Sundseth