

I write to you not only as a concerned citizen and advocate for veterans but also as a proud veteran who has served our nation. I urge you to take immediate action to support the implementation of a tax exemption for veterans' pensions in Oregon. This critical measure is long overdue and would signify our unwavering commitment to those who have sacrificed so much in defense of our freedom.

Oregon is one of the few states that continues to impose taxes on the pensions of its veterans. This decision is out of step with the majority of the country, where nearly 30 states have already established tax exemptions for military pensions. States such as Florida, Texas, and Nevada have demonstrated their recognition of the unique sacrifices made by military personnel by offering pension tax relief. By continuing to tax veterans' pensions, Oregon stands in stark contrast to these states that have chosen to honor their veterans by providing financial relief.

Veterans face numerous challenges as they transition from military service to civilian life, and the financial burden of taxation on their pensions only exacerbates their struggles. Many veterans live on fixed incomes, and a tax exemption would significantly alleviate financial pressures, helping them enjoy the peace of mind they deserve in their retirement years. Removing taxes on veterans' pensions would not only ease the financial strain but also be a tangible acknowledgment of their service.

In addition to providing direct support to veterans, a pension tax exemption would also bring substantial economic benefits to Oregon. By making the state more attractive to veterans, Oregon could see an influx of military retirees choosing to call it home. This would contribute to the local economy by boosting demand for goods, services, housing, and creating jobs. Veterans, who bring unique skills and experiences, would become an even more integral part of Oregon's thriving communities. As someone who has personally moved to Washington but plans to return to Oregon, I can testify to the positive impact this change could have. The tax exemption would not only benefit my family but also contribute to the overall growth and prosperity of our state.

Let us not forget that veterans have put their lives on the line to protect the freedoms we hold dear. Their sacrifices have allowed us to enjoy the liberties and privileges we so often take for granted. It is time for Oregon to demonstrate its gratitude in a meaningful way. Passing a tax exemption for veterans' pensions would be a powerful step in ensuring that our veterans are not only remembered but also supported as they navigate their post-service lives.

I implore you to take immediate action to introduce and support legislation that would exempt veterans' pensions from taxation in Oregon. This vital step would send a resounding message that our state honors the service and sacrifices of its military personnel and is committed to providing them with the dignity and financial security they deserve.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your leadership in this important matter.

Sincerely,
Travis Sundseth