

February 9, 2022

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is CAPT Carol A. Hottenrott, USN (Ret) and I am submitting written testimony regarding Article 6, Taxation, in favor of phasing out the taxation of military service pensions. After a 30-year career in the Navy and having lived in many states including California, Virginia, Washington, Texas, and Florida, I chose upon retirement to call Newport, RI home. I did so without having family in the state, without having secured follow-on employment, and aware that my pension would be taxed. I did so with the belief that Newport was the community and RI the state where I wanted to live and continue to serve.

I am a member of Rhode Island's almost oldest post (I think), of the Nation's oldest veterans' organization, the American Legion, Post 7. Each year, we host for our community, a Memorial Day and Veterans' Day ceremony. Standing in front of Newport City Hall, we honor our fellow service members and remind our community of sacrifice. Many people who would otherwise be unaware of the importance of these days observe these ceremonies, simply by driving or walking by. We serve to support our local schools of the value of patriotism through JROTC and provide monetary awards to students based on leadership and academic achievement. We remember and serve our fellow aging Veterans.

Veterans are volunteers. We enjoy being part of team, part of a team of action. I work in my local community through my catholic church, to serve the poor. From our military service, we bring skills such as organization, administration, leadership and engaged outreach to assist our communities. We were proud to serve our country and proud to serve our chosen communities now.

I don't regret my decision, with or without my pension taxed. Since then, I've gained employment at the U.S. Naval War College, which provides another income for state taxation. But other veterans don't come to live in and support our RI communities because of the pension tax. Others come for the employment at the War College but simply live in and commute from Connecticut and Massachusetts. Please encourage other great veterans to become outstanding civic citizens of RI by lifting the tax on military pensions. We all benefit!

Sincerely,  
//s//

Carol A. Hottenrott  
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