

Chris O'Brien

From: David Cardullo <dlseaside@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 8:02 AM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: Article 6-Taxation-Military Pensions, for

Greetings,

I am a lifelong RI resident, and a military retiree after serving this country and state for 38 years. My name is David Cardullo CMSgt. retired. I live in Riverside, RI.

I am writing to you today to show my support for the tax exemption of military retiree pensions that is currently being considered. I know this has been a topic in the past, but it never seems to be considered seriously. I do not have access to data, but it seems to me that we would want to keep veterans here in this state to have them spend their money here; not drive them away by taxing every cent they make. It seems to me, to be common sense, that whatever monies the state might lose through the tax exemption would be offset by the fact that vets would be willing to stay here and spend money, buying goods and services in this state.

I could get into the argument that the state should show some gratitude to vets who have raised their right hands to defend this country and state and maybe deserve some sort of relief, or compensation for serving. But I will tell you we serve because we feel a pride to do so, we have a desire to support the country and fulfill a mission, we don't do it because we know we won't be paying taxes on our pension. I can tell you from talking with other vets; anytime the discussion comes up about moving out of state, the pension tax is always a consideration. Why would a vet want to stay here, when they could move to another state and have more money in their pockets? Many vets just feel like maybe if I get some relief, I don't have to uproot my family, maybe someone does recognize the fact that I served to defend this country.

Don't be short sighted on this issue thinking that the state will lose revenue, think of the long term good of this state, keep the vet's money in this state. Give them another reason to enjoy their home state, and not another reason to drive them away. Many vets like myself do not want to move, our families, kids and grandkids are here.

Please consider keeping this article in the state budget, I am sure the vets in this state would be very appreciative of the recognition of their service.

Sincerely,
David Cardullo