

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** derek m <spymac@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 9, 2022 10:48 AM  
**To:** House Finance Committee; House Finance Committee  
**Cc:** Rep. Price, Justin; Sen. Morgan, Elaine J.  
**Subject:** Statement from Derek MacInnis In Support of H7123, Article 6, Taxation

Derek MacInnis, H7123, Article 6, Taxation, In Support Of (For)

Sir, Ma'am,

I am writing in support of the Governor's proposed FY2023 Budget, H7123, Article 6, Taxation. As a newly retired military member living in Rhode Island, state taxation of my military pension is a significant factor (as well as the quality of public education) in my family's long-term planning on whether or not to stay in Rhode Island and continue contributing to the economy here. When neighboring states, such as Massachusetts and Connecticut exempt military pensions from state income tax, it becomes more difficult to justify, economically, a decision to remain in Rhode Island long term.

We enjoy living in Rhode Island, and take part in many activities that materially contribute to the state's economy – shopping, dining out, recreating, and working in the state. But we also have the ability to move to Massachusetts and take most of those activities there, while possibly continuing to work in Rhode Island, or relocate that as well. Removing the tax burden on my military pension would help us feel like the state valued our service to the nation and also help us to balance the scales towards staying in Rhode Island.

I know I am not alone in this thinking. Many of my military retiree colleagues and friends laugh at the idea of retiring in Rhode Island and voluntarily giving up a portion of our military pensions to state taxation when other New England alternatives are readily available, such as Massachusetts, Connecticut, or New Hampshire. The state, unfortunately, has a reputation as not being especially friendly to military retirees, and I think that robs the state of a great potential pool of residents that could bring significant skills, experiences, and economic impact to the state.

For the above reasons, I urge you consider supporting the Governor's proposed phaseout of the Rhode Island state income tax on military pensions.

Respectfully,  
Derek MacInnis  
Richmond, RI