

Chris O'Brien

From: Erik Boxell <erik.boxell@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 6:00 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: FY 2023 Budget, Article 6, Taxation, Modification for Military Service Pension

House Finance Committee,

On behalf of myself, my family and my fellow Military retirees, I want to communicate my strong support for the proposed budget recommendation to phase out taxation of military service pensions over the next several years..

I made a deliberate decision to move to the Northeast for employment at the US Naval War College. The trend for most military retirees is to relocate to those states that offer incentives to relocate; i.e. no income tax, no or reduced property tax, good climate, close to military facilities, etc. There is very little incentive for a retiree to consider moving to RI if not relocating for a job or moving back with family. This effort would go a long way in attracting folks that otherwise might not consider Rhode Island. Let's try to offer a small carrot to those that may be on the fence to relocate.

Few states in the country offer less incentives for retirees to relocate and stay than Rhode Island. Retirees are good for our state and good for the economy; in many cases they bring an income without taking a local job. They are men and women who have lived a life of service. These are law-abiding, decent folks that maintained high levels of physical, mental and moral standards over a 20-30 year career. Our current crop of retirees are all universally combat veterans or have deployed several times throughout their careers. People that make good neighbors and maybe deserve recognition for their service by way of not taking a slice of their pension.

I am not a native New Englander but I am proud to call Rhode Island home. Give us a little break and we'll give it right back to our local economy.

Thank you.

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