

Dear Minnesota Legislator,

I am writing regarding a current disparity that concerns some Minnesota veteran's which has pending legislation in both chambers, Senate bill SF 1668 and House bill HF 2091. The disparity these pieces of legislation created stem from the original legislation passed by the Minnesota legislature, SF 40 and HF 299, in 2015. This legislation provides a deduction for career Minnesota veteran's to deduct their military pension income when filing Minnesota income tax. There are some Minnesota veteran's, like myself, that retired from federal civil service and receive a small amount of pension compensation based on their military service that do not qualify for this deduction. There has been previous legislation introduced, SF 3548 and HF 3934 in 2018 and SF 1396 and HF 1730 in 2019. I believe all of these bills had bipartisan support and if passed would have remedied the disparity, yet they failed to receive hearings and failed to proceed thru the legislative process. During the 2021 legislative session the pending bills were introduced, SF 1396 authored by Senator Rarick and HF 2091 authored by Representative Sundin.

SF 1668 was heard by the Senate Tax Committee where I had the honor to testify and was approved for inclusion in the tax omnibus bill. HF 2091 failed to receive a hearing in the House and was not considered by the conference committee for inclusion in last year's tax omnibus bill. With the 2021 session being the first year of the legislative biennium I understand the pending bills are yet active. I urge you to familiarize yourself with this subject and make it a priority issue to finally remedy the existing disparity which by appearances seem to consider a veteran like myself and the other Minnesota veteran's affected in lower esteem when they served our state and country with pride, honor and sacrifice not unlike a career veteran. Please consider this issue, work with your colleagues regardless of party affiliation and get this legislation passed, hopefully sooner rather than waiting until the end of 2022 session. It's finally time to resolve a disparity that has existed for six years!

Thank you for considering this issue and for your service to the citizens of Minnesota!

Sincerely,

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