

Dear Chair Nathanson and Members of the House Revenue Committee.

I write urging you to pass HB 2737. It is the top priority of Oregon Volunteers (The Oregon Commission for Voluntary Action & Service), of which I am a member. We strive to draw Oregonians in historically underserved populations into community and national service, and one of the supposed draws is for them to receive educational stipends they can use after their service to further their higher educations. Unfortunately, this benefit seems a false reward to some members who cannot use the stipends because they cannot afford to pay Oregon state income taxes on the rewards. I urge you to join other states in removing this barrier to service and provide Oregonians genuine opportunities to serve and be rewarded for their service.

Sincerely,

todd jones
Member of Oregon Commission for Voluntary Action & Service