

Submitter: Steve Iherig

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure: SB1549

Good Afternoon Chairman Meek,

My name is Steve Iherig, I am from Oregon City and I am here to speak in opposition to SB 1549.

I served in the US Navy from 1968 to 1972 and was stationed in Vietnam in 1969-70. Following my separation from active duty I returned to Oregon to enroll in college, with the help of the GI Bill. I received my Bachelor and Masters degrees from what is now Western Oregon University in Monmouth, Oregon. I did not qualify for any veteran's pensions.

I returned to my home state of Oregon because that is where I was born, where my family and friends lived, where I wanted to go to college and where I wanted to live, work and enjoy all that my state had to offer after graduation. If an income tax reduction would have been important in determining where I lived, the state of Washington would have been an ideal state to return to and Washington State University would have met all my academic needs. But that would not have been sufficient reason to move away from family and friends, especially after away for the previous four years. If the goal of SB1549 is to recruit veterans to Oregon, I think this bill does not reflect nor appreciate how we determine where we want to reside and what factors are of greatest value.

I very much appreciate and support greater spending on veterans who need our help. However, the tax incentive described in SB1549 would only be available to a very small percentage of the veterans in Oregon and is not based on need nor war injuries. The money for the target population, approximately \$9 million a year, I believe would be better allocated in supporting veterans with PTSD, those who are homeless, veteran's families, those with disabilities and veterans who require public support.

Thank you very much for your consideration of my comments.