Dear Senator [Elected Official’s Name],

As your constituent, I’m writing to ask you to **support Senate Bill 188**, “An Act to Provide Income Tax Relief for the Retirement Pay of Members of the Armed Forces of the United States.”

Did you know that 31 states fully exempt military retirement pay and North Carolina is ***not*** one of them? In addition to these 31 states, Arizona, Nebraska, Georgia, Maryland, California, and South Carolina all have pending legislation that will provide state income tax relief for military retirees.

Right now, only those military members who have five or more years of credible service as of August 12, 1989, have their military retirement pay exempted from North Carolina state income tax. Senate Bill 188 will provide tax exemption for the retirement pay of the most recent group of retiring military service members who very likely served in combat at least once, if not multiple times, since 1990. Also, the tax exemption would apply to military retiree survivor benefits.

For military members, taxation of their retirement income can be a serious consideration in deciding where to retire. North Carolina’s military population is well over 120,000, and when they retire, will they want to stay here when so many other states will exempt their retirement pay from state income tax but North Carolina won’t?

On average, military retirees are under 50 years of age with over 20 years of work history and a desire to start a second career (the income from which is taxable!). This type of employee profile is exactly what is needed to fill civilian and contractor positions within North Carolina’s military and defense sector and its workforce in general.

I strongly support Senate Bill 188 and ask that you use your influence to advance the bill during the upcoming legislative session.

Thank you for considering my views. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Military status/affiliation (Optional)