

Good morning, Chair Wilkins and members of the Ways and Means Committee:

Thank you for calling this hearing and allowing me to provide testimony today regarding House Bill 528.

My name is James Partridge, and I have been a resident of Maryland for almost 60 years and currently reside in Charles County.

I am testifying today in support of HB 528 to include "The District of Columbia"; allowing me and others who faithfully served for the District of Columbia Fire Department to benefit from the MD Income tax subtraction that retired Federal and MD Firefighters claim.

As President of the DC Retired Firefighters Association, this change would be of great benefit to our retired members. One of my focuses as president is to seek ways for my members to take advantage of programs and or initiatives that can positively affect their lives post retirement. After 30 years of faithful service to the District of Columbia and National Capital Region, I appreciate the focus of this bill and want to thank all of those who worked to bring it to fruition to benefit of the firefighting community.

It was a true honor to serve our Nation's Capital over the span of my career as well as the solemn pride of calling Maryland home. As a resident and proud retiree of the District of Columbia Fire Department, I hope you, along with the committee will consider my testimony in support of HB 528. The current law has been inconsistently applied to our retirees. Our members have been claiming this income subtraction modification for the past several years. Audits by the comptroller have led to confusion and conflicting outcomes. There is a real need for this language to clarify the existing statute.

Thank you to both you Madam Chair along with all the other members of the committee for your dedication to public service. I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Partridge  
DC Retired Firefighters Association