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State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs
Public Hearing Testimony
Tuesday, February 3, 2009

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

Dear Senator Maynard, Senator Slossberg, Senator Fasano, Representative Graziani, Representative Nicastro, Representative Harkins, and Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs Committee Membership:

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 5141 "AN ACT CONCERNING AN EXEMPTION FROM PERSONAL INCOME TAX FOR VETERANS' PENSIONS." This bill is extremely important to me and I believe it is the least we can do to honor our servicemen and women.

Many veterans in the Waterbury area, as well as the entire State of Connecticut, depend on their military pensions to make ends meet. The Income Tax levied on this pension can be particularly devastating for a veteran and his family, as this is sometimes their sole source of income. In 2005 the General Assembly took an important step to remedy this problem and raise the standard of living for our retired veterans by exempting a portion of their income. I would encourage this committee and our state to take the next step and exempt the remainder. Every dollar we allow our veterans to keep, helps keep them in their homes and independent from state assistance.

I know we are living through tough economic times, but that is not an excuse to ignore those who have ensured our freedom. Though the state may in fact have to forgo some monies, it is a small sacrifice for us to make in our efforts to honor the sacrifice of our veterans.

On behalf of the veterans' community and myself, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill.