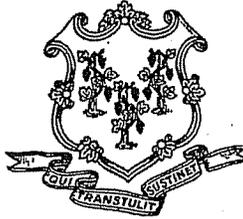


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February 10, 2011

Good Morning Senator Maynard, Representative Hennessy, and members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. I am here today to testify in favor of SB 377, ***AN ACT CONCERNING INTEREST OWED ON PROPERTY TAXES BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES ON ACTIVE DUTY.***

This issue was brought to my attention by a constituent who, while he was serving in the military, missed his property tax bill. When he wrote to me, he had already paid the bill but he thought that the system was unfair. I had to agree. This bill does not mandate that towns must forgive interest owed by members of the armed forces on property taxes; it gives towns discretion to waive this interest if the situation warrants. Active duty members of the armed forces are often away from their mail for significant periods. They should not be penalized for their service to our country. I believe this is a matter of fairness and a small recognition for the members of the military who are sacrificing so much. Thank you.