

Dear Appropriation Committee Member,

I am writing to you to ask for your support of **Bill 5443, the Waiver of Benefit for the Surviving Spouse proposal**. My name is Jim Dwire, and I am the brother of Leanne Connolly. Leanne is the widow of Joe Connolly and mother of Erin, age 19, and Patrick, age 17. On November 12, 2011 they lost their Husband and Father without warning. He went into the hospital and died that night.

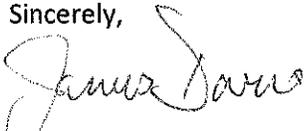
In addition to his family, Joe was loved by many, including his friends, his work associates, and the thousands of children he taught as a Teacher for 22 years in the Timothy Edwards School in South Windsor. Joe was active in the community, sharing his time and talents directing and producing local theatre. He worked very hard, and was compassionate to everyone. He would always tell his students "you are kind, you are smart, you are important", and would ask them to recite this to themselves every day. Many of the over 800 in attendance at Joe's wake reminded Leanne of this. He made a difference.

After Joe died, Leanne found out they had not changed Joe's beneficiary option on his full pension from his deceased father to Leanne. It was an honest oversight. The beneficiary on his pension should have been Leanne. Joe had earned a right for a full pension, and Leanne would have received the full joint pension as planned.

Due to the current law, Leanne will receive less than one third of the full pension she would have received. If this bill is not passed Leanne will lose her home, and her children's college education will be in jeopardy. I feel this is a severe punishment, all for an honest oversight.

Please do not allow an honest oversight affect my sister and her children's financial security. I ask again for your support of **Bill 5443**.

Sincerely,



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