



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE CLAIRE L. JANOWSKI
FIFTY-SIXTH DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 1003
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591
CAPITOL: (860) 240-0452
FAX: (860) 240-8833
E-MAIL: Claire.Janowski@cga.ct.gov

CHAIRMAN
EXECUTIVE & LEGISLATIVE NOMINATIONS
COMMITTEE

MEMBER
HIGHER EDUCATION & EMPLOYEE
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

FINANCE, REVENUE & BONDING COMMITTEE 3/11/13
**HB 1055: AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS TAX CREDITS AND AN EXEMPTION TO,
AND A STUDY OF, THE INCOME TAX**

GOOD DAY REPRESENTATIVE WIDLITZ, SENATOR FONFARA AND MEMBERS OF THE FINANCE, REVENUE & BONDING COMMITTEE. I AM REPRESENTATIVE CLAIRE JANOWSKI FROM THE 56TH DISTRICT OF VERNON & ROCKVILLE.

MY TESTIMONY IS IN SUPPORT OF SECTION 9 OF BILL 1055, AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS TAX CREDITS AND AN EXEMPTION TO, AND STUDY OF, THE INCOME TAX. SECTION 9 OF THIS BILL INCORPORATES THE INTENT OF A BILL I INTRODUCED THIS SESSION HB 5872. IT WILL ENABLE A STUDY OF THE CURRENT STATE INCOME TAX TABLES ON WHICH PERSONAL LIABILITY IS BASED TO DETERMINE APPROPRIATE ADJUSTMENTS FOR ELIMINATING A DISPROPORTINATE TAX LIABILITY BEING PLACED UPON SINGLE FILERS.

THIS IS AN INNEQUITY THAT NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED AS SINGLE FILERS CURRENTLY PAY A LIABILITY OF 5 TO 6 TIMES MORE THAN THOSE WHO ARE FILING JOINTLY OR FILING AS HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD. THIS MEANS THAT BASED ON THE 2012 TAX TABLES CURRENTLY USED FOR THE APRIL 15 FILING, IF THE CT TAXABLE INCOME IS \$33,000, FOR EXAMPLE, AND YOU ARE....

Single, you pay:	\$1,014.00
Married (filing jointly), you pay:	162.00
Head of household, you pay:	273.00

AS ILLUSTRATED, THE DIFFERENCE IS NOT SMALL, BUT RATHER ONE THAT PLACES A HUGE BURDEN ON ALL SINGLE FILERS, ESPECIALLY OUR YOUNG PEOPLE WORKING TO FORGE A CAREER FOR THEMSELVES AND RECENT COLLEGE GRADUATES ENTERING THE WORKFORCE WHO ARE STILL STRUGGLING TO PAY THEIR STUDENT LOAN DEBTS.

Page 2

Rep. Claire Janowski

Testimony for Finance, Revenue & Bonding – Public hearing 3/11/13

HB-1055, Section 9 – study of personal income tax structure

ALTHOUGH I DO NOT BELIEVE IT WAS THE INTENT TO PLACE THE GREATEST BURDEN ON SINGLE FILERS WHEN THE STATE INCOME TAX WAS DEVISED, IT IS WHAT WE NOW HAVE & I WANT TO PERSONALLY THANK REP. WIDLITZ FOR LISTENING TO MY CONCERNS AND INCLUDING SECTION 9 IN THIS BILL TO HELP ADDRESS THE ISSUE SO THAT THE PROBLEM CAN BE LOOKED INTO, RESEARCHED AND ANALYZED FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION.

IN CONNECTICUT, THE INCOME ON WHICH THE STATE INCOME TAX LIABILITY IS APPLIED IS THE FEDERAL ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME (Income before federal deductions, exemptions and credits are applied) AND THE TAX TABLES APPEAR TO INCLUDE STATE DETERMINED EXEMPTIONS AND CREDITS WHICH MAY BENEFIT ONE GROUP OF FILERS OVER ANOTHER. OTHER STATES APPLY THE INCOME TAX LIABILITY MORE EQUITABLY.

IN COLORADO, FOR EXAMPLE, ALL FILERS ARE TREATED THE SAME. THE STATE OF COLORADO DOES NOT BREAK DOWN THE TAX TABLES BY FILING STATUS BECAUSE THEY USE THE FEDERAL TAXABLE INCOME (Income after all federal deductions, exemptions and credits are applied) AS THE BASIS FOR STATE INCOME TAX LIABILITY. THE RESULT IS THAT THE INCOME TAX LIABILITY IS APPLIED EQUITABLY ACROSS THE BOARD.

THIS STUDY IS A POSITIVE FIRST STEP IN ADDRESSING THE ISSUE AND I'M PLEASED THAT part (b) of Sec. 9 REQUIRES THAT THE COMMISSIONER REPORT BACK TO YOUR COMMITTEE ON THE FINDINGS, JANUARY, 2014.

AGAIN, I WISH TO THANK THE COMMITTEE FOR GIVING THIS ISSUE THE ATTENTION IT DESERVES BY MAKING IT PART OF THIS BILL. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE COMMITTEE IN MOVING THIS ISSUE FORWARD AND WOULD BE HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

Claire Janowski
State Representative
Vernon & Rockville