



State of Connecticut

SENATE

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PROGRAM REVIEW &
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February 19, 2013

Dear Esteemed Members of the Veteran's Affairs Committee,

I am testifying today to express my support for HB 5134, which extends the property tax exemption program to all veterans, even those who have not served in war, as well as HB 5753, which increases the property tax exemption for the first time in 65 years.

Bill 5134: After World War II, legislation was passed that gave war era veterans an exemption against the assessed value of their property. It is grossly unfair that this exemption program only applies to veterans who have served during a wartime era. All of our military, who pledge their lives to protect our freedoms, deserve the same treatment and benefits, regardless of whether or not they served during a war.

Bill 5753: Presently Wartime era Veterans receive a one thousand dollar exemption on their assessed property tax value (this value increases up to \$3000 depending on disability rating). At the time this benefit was implemented, a home was worth approximately \$10,000 and the \$1,000 exemption was worth approximately ten percent of the home value. This rate has not been adjusted in sixty-five years; a thousand dollars towards property tax is hardly any help. At today's home values this benefit is worth \$30 per year. This is very unfair towards our veterans. This bill changes the values of benefits to the same percentage points that were in affect at the end of world war two.

Please support HB 5134, so that we may give all of our veterans the benefits that they have duly earned.

And please support HB 5753, which will make an adjustment on a benefit that has unfairly decreased every year for the past 65 years

Thank you,
Sen. Markley