

As today is March 5th and your scheduled discussion on a tax relief bill for seniors is scheduled for March 6th and there is a massive amount of snow on the ground as well as the fact that living on a fixed Social Security income, we, as seniors, respectively Leilani Parker, 71 and myself, 73, cannot afford to drive to Hartford and testify, I wish to have my e-mail letter presented within your discussions.

Originally I approached former State Senator Timothy Bowles with regard to giving elderly residents a break on property taxes. My proposal was that any senior over the age of 70 who lives on a fixed income, Social Security, disability, etc, and has resided in their town and has owned their own home in that town for more than 10 years should not have to pay any property tax for the remainder of their lives. Considering at age 70 and up we've already paid our fair share of property taxes, I see no reason this could not be approved so that those of us can at least enjoy our remaining years without the burden of property taxes.

For instance, my entire Social Security check for one month pays my property taxes for 6 months. Then I have to come up with another payment in six months. So basically there's two months of Social Security checks that go to paying property taxes which otherwise could be used to support our household with food, utility payments, gas, and the such, and this EXCLUDES any money we would have left over for emergencies or a simple dinner at McDonalds.

I understand and greatly appreciate the introduction of the bills for elderly tax relief by some Representatives, including my State Senator, Mike France, however I simply think freezing the amount the elderly have to pay does not give us a break. Maybe to you it seems like a break, but ask any senior if they still have to pay property taxes at 70 and older if it makes sense. Most I've talked to will say it's a bunch of, pardon the expression, B.S. to pacify seniors.

In conclusion, I certainly hope you will take my concern and suggestions into consideration and not simply pass this bill in the form that it is presently in.

Should that be the case, I will follow through on my plans to start a petition throughout Connecticut touching on as many seniors as I can to accomplish my goal of waiving property taxes for the elderly over age 70.

Let's see where Friday's discussion goes.

Respectively,

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