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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Testimony by:

Henry Genga, State Representative – 10th District

S.B. 520: An Act Concerning Military Retirement Pay

February 17, 2015

Senator Flexer, Representative Hennessy, honorable members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee,

Today I am here to speak in support of SB 520 which aims to increase the exemption for military retirement pay on state income tax from fifty to one hundred percent.

As there are more than 270,000 veterans in the state of Connecticut, all of whom who must confront a variety of struggles in relation to health concerns, education, and more, it should be our duty to affirm that these veterans receive all the support that we can provide them. By raising the state income tax exception to one hundred percent, we are giving veterans, who risked their lives for our country, an opportunity to better support themselves and their families.

Currently there are thirteen states that specifically made provisions to exclude income tax on retirement pay for men and women who have served in our armed services as well as nine who do not by default due to their lack on income tax. Particularly, there are at least 2,121 veterans in East Hartford who receive property tax reliefs that would benefit from this legislation.

Knowing this, I sincerely hope you will support SB 520 and increase the income tax exemption rate from fifty percent to one hundred percent for all veterans in the state of Connecticut.

Thank you for your consideration.