



REPRESENTATIVE CLAIRE L. JANOWSKI
FIFTY-SIXTH DISTRICT

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

CHAIRMAN
EXECUTIVE & LEGISLATIVE NOMINATIONS
COMMITTEE

MEMBER
HIGHER EDUCATION & EMPLOYEE
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY

2/26/16 FINANCE REVENUE & BONDING COMMITTEE HB-5026 AN ACT CONCERNING PARITY FOR SINGLE-FILERS UNDER THE PERSONAL INCOME TAX

GOOD MORNING CHAIRS AND MEMBERS OF THE FINANCE, REVENUE & BONDING COMMITTEE. I AM REP. CLAIRE JANOWSKI FROM THE 56TH DISTRICT OF VERNON & ROCKVILLE.

I AM PLEASED TO SPEAK IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSED HB 5026, **AN ACT CONCERNING PARITY FOR SINGLE-FILERS UNDER THE PERSONAL INCOME TAX**. THE PURPOSE OF THE BILL IS TO FIX AN INEQUITY INHERENT IN THE CURRENT STATE INCOME TAX FILING TABLES FOR SINGLE FILERS WHO PAY UP TO FIVE TIMES MORE INCOME TAX THAN INDIVIDUALS FILING JOINTLY.

THE BILL WILL ESTABLISH A TEN-YEAR PLAN TO PHASE IN AN INCREASE IN THE PERSONAL EXEMPTION FOR SINGLE FILERS FROM THE CURRENT \$14,550 THRESHOLD TO \$20,000 IN ORDER TO CREATE MORE PARITY AND FAIRNESS IN THE SCALES. THE EXEMPTION WOULD BE DONE IN EQUAL INCREMENTS OF \$500 YEARLY OVER A 10-YEAR PERIOD. THE CATEGORY OF SINGLE FILERS INCLUDES STUDENTS, RECENT GRADUATES, YOUNG PEOPLE ENTERING THE WORKFORCE, WIDOWS, WIDOWERS AND SENIOR CITIZENS WHO ARE CURRENTLY SADDLED WITH A MUCH HIGHER TAX LIABILITY THAN JOINT FILERS. THIS WILL HAVE NO IMPACT ON THE CURRENT \$24,050 PERSONAL EXEMPTION AVAILABLE TO JOINT FILERS.

WHILE PAST SOME SHORT-LIVED ATTEMPTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO FIX THIS INEQUITY FOR SINGLE FILERS, SIGNIFICANT PARITY HAS NOT YET BEEN ACHIEVED. THIS BILL OFFERS A LONG-TERM PLAN FOR FIXING THAT INEQUITY.

FIXING THIS UNFAIR BURDEN IN OUR INCOME TAX LIABILITY STRUCTURE FOR SINGLE FILERS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO – IT WILL HELP KEEP OUR YOUTH IN CONNECTICUT, REDUCING THE “BRAIN DRAIN” OF YOUTH LEAVING OUR STATE FOR MORE FAVORABLE TAX CLIMATES. I URGE A FAVORABLE VOTE ON RAISING THE BILL AND VOTING IT OUT OF COMMITTEE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR UTMOST CONSIDERATION.