



**State of Connecticut**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONN. 06106

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee  
Public Testimony  
March 18, 2016

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 446

Good Morning Co-Chairs Senator Fonfara, Representative Berger; Vice Chairs Senator Leone, Representative Lemar, Representative Santiago; Ranking Members Senator Frantz, Representative Davis; and esteemed members of the Committee.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to submit testimony today in support of Senate Bill 446: An Act Repealing the Estate and Gift Taxes.

Repealing the Estate and Gift Tax would be a crucial first step in ensuring the retention of our senior citizens. According to a 2014 joint report conducted by the Office of Fiscal Analysis and Office of Legislative Research during the years of 2008 through 2012 the number of returns filed exceeded 1900. This is due to the implemented estate and gift tax and estate tax policy in Connecticut. These taxes encourage residents to move out of the state or simply not choose Connecticut as a place to live. This results in a loss of economic opportunity for the state, as well as lost revenue.

Connecticut is one of the few states that have an estate and gift tax. Most Recently, Minnesota repealed its gift tax in 2014 a year after it was adopted in 2013. Louisiana repealed their gift tax in 2007, North Carolina in 2008, and Tennessee in 2012. Following in the footsteps of these states will help encourage retirees to stay in Connecticut.

We also believe in repealing the pension and social security taxes. Repealing these taxes will help secure retirees within our state. Retirees work hard throughout their lives and pay income taxes as well as social security benefits, these taxes result in Connecticut losing our retirees to states that are more welcoming.

Again, thank you for allowing us the opportunity to submit testimony today in support of SB 446.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Brenda L. Kupchick in cursive.

Brenda Kupchick  
State Representative  
132nd District

Handwritten signature of Laura Devlin in cursive.

Laura Devlin  
State Representative  
134th District