



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
Public Testimony
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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 5062 AN ACT ELIMINATING THE PERSONAL INCOME TAX ON SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

Good Morning Co-Chairs Senator Fonfara, Representative Berger; Ranking Members Senator Frantz, Representative Davis; and esteemed members of the Committee. My name is Sam Belsito and I am proud to represent the 53rd District, which encompasses the towns of Ashford, Tolland, and Willington. I am testifying in support of bill HB 5062.

I am proud to call myself a long time citizen of our state and for the longest time I looked forward to enjoying my retirement here. As I view Connecticut now, the prospect of this seems unlikely at best. For too long the leaders of the state have looked at ever increasing taxes as the way to climb out of our fiscal hole. Some feel this is acceptable since these taxes are targeted at the corporations and the "1%." But what of this particular tax we are here to talk about today, one which is directly and unequivocally directed at our senior citizens?

Many of these seniors have lived here their entire lives in Connecticut and wish to stay for the simple reason that this is their home. They have built their lives and raised families in this great and beautiful state. Yet we have all seen the demographic data and people are leaving Connecticut. And what of our senior citizens? Why should they remain in the state and worry about their finances when more welcoming ports of call are elsewhere?

We as a state do have expenses and they have to be paid, I am not arguing that point. But what does it say when a state becomes so needy for revenue it has to tax the very limited income of social security? I know we want to solve our fiscal crisis and this tax has been in place for some time. For many the idea of removing a tax now as the deficit continues to increase seems counterproductive. But I say this is exactly the time to change course and say to the seniors and the rest of the country we are not just about taxing and spending. Now is the time to give this much needed relief to our seniors and prove we can end this "new fiscal reality" as it is called by removing this troublesome burden on the senior citizens of Connecticut.

Thank you

Sam Belsito
State Representative, 53rd District