



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE WHIT BETTS
SEVENTY-EIGHTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4200
300 CAPITOL AVENUE
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1423
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700
Whit.Betts@housegop.ct.gov

ASSISTANT REPUBLICAN LEADER

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Testimony in Support of
HB 5062: An Act Eliminating the Personal Income Tax on Social Security Benefits
Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee
February 26, 2016

Good Morning Chairman Fonfara, Chairman Berger, Ranking Members Senator Franz and Representative Davis, and distinguished members of the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee. I would like to thank the Committee for raising HB 5062: AN ACT ELIMINATING THE PERSONAL INCOME TAX ON SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS.

The proper implementation and management of Social Security, the nation's most basic method of providing protection to persons and families who lose income due to death, disability, or retirement, is an important issue to many of those in our community. This bill in front of the committee today would take measures to ensure that we are not adding to the burden already carried by our state's Social Security recipients.

The state of Connecticut had 885,000 Social Security Insurance recipients. A large number of recipients are citizens who have already paid into Social Security with taxes levied upon them throughout their working lives. It is my belief that they should not be taxed yet again when receiving benefits that they have already contributed towards. This proposal would add Connecticut to a list of 26 other states that provide a full tax exemption for Social Security benefits and put an end to what amounts to a double tax on all those who receive social security.

In a time when many of our citizens are leaving the state, this legislation may provide some financial relief and eliminate one reason for leaving.

The State of Connecticut's current tax code is at odds with the realities facing many of its' families. As anyone in this room can tell you, when our mothers, fathers, and grandparents struggle to make ends meet, it inevitably falls upon the family to shoulder the financial burden. We should not be putting members our families and community in such an unstable environment.

I strongly urge the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee to take up Proposed Bill Number 5062 and amend Chapter 9 of the General Statutes to eliminate the personal income tax on Social Security benefits. Please allow the full General Assembly the opportunity to debate this issue that affects the lives of so many of our state's citizens, families, and our greatest generation.