



State of Connecticut

SENATE

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Sen. Martin Testimony In Support of H.B. 5062 Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee February 26th, 2016

Sen. Fonfara, Rep. Berger, Ranking Members Frantz and Davis, and members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee:

I am Sen. Henri Martin, and I am testifying in favor of Proposed H.B. No. 5062 AN ACT ELIMINATING THE PERSONAL INCOME TAX ON SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS.

The past several years in Connecticut have been hard on all of our citizens. The "Great Recession" and the subsequent years of delayed recovery that followed have put a financial hardship on everyone. The recession cut across all demographics and all income brackets. It may have had its most adverse effect on the senior citizen population in our state, and that's why I am testifying today.

Eliminating the Personal Income Tax on Social Security Benefits is one way we can help rectify this problem. As you all know, a large portion of our senior citizen population is entirely dependent upon their social security income as either their only or primary source of revenue. This has forced many of our seniors to make a difficult decision to either stay in Connecticut or move out-of-state. With so many of our senior citizens packing their bags for more affordable states, we have a responsibility to do whatever we can to ease their burden to keep them in Connecticut. This is both an economic and moral responsibility.

We have a responsibility to all citizens to keep the senior population in Connecticut to help drive our economic comeback. The more people in Connecticut purchasing goods and services benefits us all. But perhaps more importantly, we have a moral responsibility to families. The heavy tax burden on Connecticut's seniors drives families apart, separating parents from children and grandparents from grandchildren. This is a problem that deserves our attention – we owe it to our seniors and the people of Connecticut to seriously consider this proposal.

Please support H.B. 5062. Thank you.
Best Regards,

Senator Henri Martin
31st District