



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE LINDA M. GENTILE
DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
ONE HUNDRED FOURTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4109
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591
CAPITOL: 860-240-8522
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-8267
FAX: 860-240-0206
E-MAIL: Linda.Gentile@cga.ct.gov

MEMBER

COMMERCE COMMITTEE
HIGHER EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE
JOINT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

March 3, 2017

Good Morning Representative Rojas, Senator Fonfara, Senator Frantz and the esteemed members of the Finance revenue and bonding committee. I'm testifying today to express my support of **HB 5587, AN ACT CONCERNING A TAX EXEMPTION FOR SENIORS' SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS.**

This bill seeks to make Connecticut more friendly to retirees; lessening the incentive for them to move to states like Florida which don't impose an income tax. Connecticut remains a notoriously difficult state to retire in and retirees and seniors leave the state more than any other age group.

We can make Connecticut a more welcoming place for job growth, and we can make it more affordable by decreasing the cost of state and local government. Taxes do affect behavior, and understanding why residents are leaving also helps us take a step toward reversing the outmigration of our seniors and retirees. People receiving a pension payment still pay Connecticut's 6.5 percent income tax.

Retired state employees living in Connecticut receive \$95 million per month in pension payments, according to figures provided by the state comptroller's office. Based on just that group alone the state would lose \$6.1 million per month.

I urge this committee to move this bill forward and thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Representative Linda Gentile