



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

REPRESENTATIVE GERALDO REYES, JR.
75TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8585
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-8267
E-MAIL: Geraldo.Reyes@cga.ct.gov

Joint Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding
Public Hearing- March 3, 2017
Testimony by State Representative Geraldo Reyes
An Act Concerning A Tax Exemption For Seniors' Social Security Benefit

Good afternoon, Representative Rojas, Senator Fonfara, Senator Franz and Committee members. My Name is Rep. Geraldo Reyes and I represent the 75th district which is in Waterbury.

I am here today in support of **HB 5587**, "An Act Concerning A Tax Exemption For Seniors' Social Security Benefits".

This bill would exempt from the personal income tax Social Security benefits received by residents 62 years of age and over. Connecticut is one of only 13 states that tax Social Security benefits. Upwards of twelve percent of my constituents are 62 years old or over.

When I speak to seniors in my district they are always concerned about the cost of living and how to stretch their retirement income. HB 5587 would help these seniors and many more that are already struggling to keep up with the rising cost of living.

According to The World Bank, life expectancy has been on the rise since 1960. With people living longer on fixed incomes, we as state leaders want to make sure that constituents have the resources they need for their retirement years. Financial security for our seniors is why I support his legislation.

Providing seniors with this financial security will help them remain in their homes and generate economic activity. This is money that seniors will spend on bread and milk at their local store; on a meal at a local restaurant; on a gift for a grandchild – It is money that will go back into our local economies.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Geraldo C. Reyes Jr." in a cursive script.