



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

REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTOPHER ROSARIO

CHIEF MAJORITY WHIP
CHAIR OF THE LEGISLATIVE BLACK & PUERTO RICAN CAUCUS

128TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
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MEMBER

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee

Friday, March 3, 2017

Public Hearing

1:00 PM in LOB Hearing Room 2E

Testimony in Support of

House Bill 5586 AN ACT MAKING CONNECTICUT MORE AFFORDABLE FOR COLLEGE GRADUATES

House Bill 5587 AN ACT CONCERNING A TAX EXEMPTION FOR SENIORS' SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

Good afternoon Chairmen Rojas, Fonfara, Frantz, Ranking Member Davis, and esteemed Members of the Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee. For the record, my name is Representative Christopher Rosario of the 128th District and I respectfully submit testimony in support of the following proposed bills that will provide beneficial tax relief:

HB-5586 An Act Making Connecticut More Affordable For College Graduates creates a tax credit for Connecticut residents who recently graduated from college. The expectation is to retain and employ an educated work force in the state. This is not a new concept. Over the years, we tried to find ways to provide incentives for our constituents to not only pursue higher education, but to continue to live and work in our state. An educated workforce will add a boost to our economy. This practice will also encourage younger generations to do the same. In order to keep up with our ever-changing world, skilled workers are necessary to grow businesses, which will grow communities providing financial security to families.

HB-5587 An Act Concerning A Tax Exemption For Seniors' Social Security Benefits will exempt all seniors' Social Security income from the state personal income tax. Most seniors live on

a fixed income and struggle to make ends meet, including additional medical expenses. They should not have to worry about paying taxes. This bill will provide seniors with relief from an unnecessary tax and help ease their burden.

It is time to give our seniors a break!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CR', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Christopher Rosario
State Representative – 128th District