

Chris O'Brien

From: Gerry Barnett <gerry.barnett@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 6:32 AM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: House Bill 5474 - Entitled, An Act Relating to Taxation

Chairman Abney and members of the House Finance Committee:

I am the 82 year old widow of a Korean War veteran.

Ed and I both worked hard and saved our money to have an easier future as older adults. After losing my husband, my daughter wanted to leave Texas and move to Rhode Island and I reluctantly agreed. I was very concerned about the taxes in New England and especially the state income taxes. Texas has none. However, we arrived a couple of years ago and we love living here.

However, I have been shocked by the amount of state income taxes - 40% of which has been attributable to Social Security tax. Taxes on a widow are costly enough.

- Rhode Island is one of only 8 states that still tax Social Security.
- The impact on singles with the least income is often worse than those with the most income.
- Also, the tax is hardest on those with the least, not the riches; see below.

It is wrong to raise general revenue on the backs of those of us who worked so hard and paid taxes on those earnings.

Please vote to eliminate the state income tax on social security.

Vote YES on House Bill 5474

I will appreciate your consideration.

Single person	Pension/401(k) Income	Social Security Income	Taxable Income		Tax Payable		Taxpayer Penalty	% Change
			Without SS	With SS	Without SS	With SS		
65-67	\$60,000	\$30,000	\$43,400	\$73,400	\$1,628	\$2,753	\$1,125	69%
>67	\$60,000	\$30,000	\$23,400	NA	NA	\$878	\$0	0%
>67	\$75,000	\$30,000	\$38,400	\$88,400	\$1,440	\$3,422	\$1,982	137%
>67	\$300,000	\$30,000	\$300,000	\$330,000	\$15,000	\$16,800	\$1,800	12%

Ms. Gerry Barnett
Sent from my iPad