

Dear Chairman Abney and members of the House Finance Committee:

I write to you today in **SUPPORT** of HB #5758 which will completely eliminate the State Social Security tax for Rhode Islanders.

Social Security was intended to lift older adults out of poverty, not fund State government. It is our money. During all of our working years we paid into the system and should get it back, like they do in 42 other states.

This issue really hit me hard this year when I had to pay the State tax of just under \$6000.00. Although I have not paid State taxes since I retired, up until this year (My gross family income from Social Security and pension is under \$80,000) I now was taxed on my entire income which included my pension and Social Security income. This was due to a one time event on the transfer of IRA money to savings. I knew I had taxes due but I would have paid less if my social security tax was not included. My income is still less than \$80,000!

Although I love living in Rhode Island, I lived most of my working life in Florida where State taxes are non-existent. This is a big reason people continue to move to those States without taxes. The elimination of tax on Social Security will reward RI by reducing the exodus of the retired and attracting more people to move into our State.

I strongly urge your consideration and support of HB #5758.

*Sandra Darling, AARP Advocacy Volunteer and Retired RN
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