

## Testimony in Support of H-7313

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

As a Unitarian Universalist and a member of the Rhode Island faith community, I am writing to support House bill 7313, an act which will promote tax fairness in Rhode Island.

The bill increases the tax on Rhode Islanders with highest incomes. It has the effect of making the current tax formula more proportional by asking more from the very wealthy among us. The bill creates a 3% surtax on taxable incomes above \$640,000.00/year.

The increase in funds will help in many ways. We know that the federal government has substantially cut assistance in several areas, including SNAP benefits and Medicaid funding. Many families are struggling with increased health insurance costs and rising food prices.

As a member of a church community that operates a basic needs pantry, The Sharing Locker, I am well aware that there are many families struggling with the ability to purchase basic personal and household items. If we do nothing, the price of our inaction will be paid by people in need.

How we care for the neediest in our community is a moral question that we cannot avoid answering. When we care for those who are in need we express the deepest truth of who we are. The moral calculation we face is not whether we can afford to care for our families but whether we can afford not to.

Thank you for your considerate attention to this important matter. I urge you to support tax fairness in Rhode Island.

Kamila Barzykowski  
Warwick, RI