



Testimony for House Finance Committee Hearing

Re: in Support of 7313

Chair Abney and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to urge your support for Representative Alzate's Tax Fairness Bill (7313).

The bill increases the tax on Rhode Islanders with the 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 pastor of a church community that operates a food pantry, I am well aware that there are many families struggling with food insecurity. 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 feed 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.

Grace and peace,

The Rev. Eugene T. Dyszlewski
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