



Testimony in SUPPORT of Improving the Property Tax Circuit Breaker: H-7700
House Committee on Finance
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The Economic Progress Institute (EPI) **supports Representative Cotter's H-7700** which would increase the income threshold and credit amount for Rhode Island's property tax "circuit breaker" program for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

The income threshold would be increased from \$35,000 to \$50,000, and the credit amount would be increased from \$700 to \$850 per year. We think these are reasonable increases to help low-income seniors make ends meet.

However, as a general principle, at EPI we believe that this sort of assistance ought to be based on need and on ability to pay rather than on age or membership in a particular group. Therefore, we think it might be preferable to keep these amounts lower while expanding the property tax "circuit breaker" assistance to other low-income Rhode Islanders. In the absence of such a proposal – or, better yet, one that expands eligibility in all these ways – we do support H-7700 and recommend sending it to the House floor.