

Gerry Barnett

March 1, 2026

RE: Elimination of the state tax on Social Security

Chairman Abney and members of the House Finance Committee:

Once again I write to urge you to eliminate the state tax on Social Security for the reasons below:

- Rhode Island is **one of only 8 states** that tax Social Security.
- This tax **weighs heavily on middle income RI'ers** — with middle income now \$56.6k to 169.9k This is not a tax on the "well off".
- **I was shocked after moving here from Texas to learn my hard earned Social Security was to be taxed.**

I am particularly aggrieved that these funds are dumped into the general fund rather than dedicated to some benefit for older adults. Forty-two states balance their budgets without taxing Social Security. It is appropriate that the good state of Rhode Island do the same.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerry Barnett

Cc: Rep.Alex Marszalkowski

Sen. Ryan Pearson

Gerry

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