

Chairman Abney and members of the House Finance Committee:

I write this in support of eliminating the State tax on Social Security.

Rhode Island is one of only 8 states that tax Social Security and we are placing a burden on most of our older population. There are over 9,000 older Rhode Islanders who have an income under \$75,000 and are being taxed. Many of this income group filed early for their Social Security benefits and are not protected by our income limits in State law until they reach full retirement age. This is not a tax on the “well off”.

I frequently hear of retired, or about to retire, people who feel compelled to move from RI to a state that will not tax their Social Security benefits. We are losing some of our older population due to our unfriendly approach to taxes. We can make a difference with the elimination of taxes on Social Security.

I urge your support on this issue.

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