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TO: Rhode Island House Finance

FROM: Arthur and Nancy Plante

SUBJECT: Bill H5678

VIEWPOINT: For

Testimony—Representative Stephen Casey has submitted said bill on behalf of Rhode Island retirees who had been employed in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and who are negatively impacted by double taxation because the state of Rhode Island continues to tax our pensions on earnings that had already been taxed when we were employed by Massachusetts.

In 2008, my wife and I were educators who had taught for 35 and 34 years respectively. Since then, the continuance of taxing each of our pensions negatively affects us. To compound this unfair financial burden, the town that had employed us did not permit us to partake in social security, thus we do not get Medicare and we each pay half of our medical plans. Unlike many of our former colleagues, who relocated to warmer climates where states do not tax their pensions, we remain to live and to pay taxes (real estate, sales, and excise) in the “Ocean State.”

Please address the problematic issue of double taxation placed upon the small number of Rhode Islanders who are also impacted by the additional monetary strain.

We sincerely hope and trust that as representatives you not only recognize the inequity of the double taxation but also rectify the injustice.

Respectively submitted,

Arthur and Nancy Plante