

To: Chairman DiPalma and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Re: Social Security tax elimination

I am Dan Liparini, a resident of North Kingstown, and I am writing in support of eliminating the tax on Social Security.

I know a lot of people think that this tax only applies to the “rich people”, but this is not true. People who claim Social Security before age 67 pay taxes on it regardless of their income. More than 9,000 older Rhode Islanders who have incomes below \$75,000 are being taxed on their SS payments. That is not right.

Social Security payments were never meant to fund state governments, and most states don't tax SS payments. In fact, we are one of only 8 states that tax these payments.

And for people 67 or older, the tax comes into play for married couples with incomes \$134,000 and above. So even if you only make \$1 dollar more than that, you get taxed on your entire SS payment. That could be a few thousand dollars just for making a couple of dollars over the threshold.

While I don't enjoy paying taxes, I recognize that there are budget issues that need to be addressed and in Rhode Island income taxes are a necessity. But they should be addressed in a way that is fair. When I see my state income taxes increased by more than 40% due to this tax, when most other states don't tax this benefit, it doesn't seem fair.

Please support the elimination of this unfair tax. Thank you.

Dan Liparini