



April 30, 2026

The Honorable Louis P. DiPalma, Chair
Senate Committee on Finance
State House, 82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903
via email: Sen-DiPalma@rilegislature.gov
via email: SenateFinance@rilegislature.gov

Re: H-7127 – An Act Making Appropriations for the Support of the State for Fiscal Year Ending 06/30/2027
Article 5, Taxes and Fees

Dear Chairman DiPalma:

I write today in support of the proposed elimination of state tax on Social Security benefits included in Article 5 of House Bill 7127. As part of Governor McKee's commitment to ensuring Rhode Island is a great place for all residents to grow up and grow older, the elimination of State tax on Social Security benefits will impact retirees who are struggling to afford health care and other basic needs.

In the first year of implementation, 9,200 early retirees will be fully exempt from state tax on their benefits. These older adults, who claimed Social Security early due to disability, health issues, job loss, or family caregiving needs, have not been included in the State's earlier pension and annuity tax exemptions because they had not reached "full retirement age" at the time they retired. Research shows that early claiming of Social Security correlates with unemployment, low wealth, work-limiting health conditions, and physically demanding jobs. These Rhode Islanders need Social Security benefits to live a fulfilling life with dignity, and the exemption proposed by Governor McKee will ensure older Rhode Islanders get the full benefits they have earned.

As always, I thank you for your partnership and consideration of this letter. Your leadership and advocacy for Rhode Island's older adults, adults living with disabilities, and their families are appreciated.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maria E. Cimini".

Maria E. Cimini
Director

CC: The Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Finance
Kristen Silvia, Senate Director of Legislation and Deputy Chief of Staff