

## Testimony in Support of S-2238

Dear Chairman DiPalma and Members of the Senate Committee on Finance:

My name is Erin Papa, I live in Providence in Senate District 7, and I am writing in strong support of S-2238, Sen. Murray's proposal to tax the Top 1%. Senate Bill 2238 would **raise \$203 million/year for RI** by creating a 3% tax on income OVER \$640,000/year (the top 1% of income earners in the state). S-2238 would raise **\$68 million more/year than the Governor's proposed millionaires tax** (which would only raise \$135 million/year).

In July 2025, the federal government cut trillions of dollars in funding for healthcare and SNAP to give tax breaks to the rich, and **it is only fair that we recapture some of that revenue** for Rhode Island. S-2238 would only affect 6,100 households, while providing \$203 million/year that the state could invest in healthcare, food assistance, affordable childcare, public education, public transportation, and senior services that families and businesses need to thrive. Because of federal cuts, RI will lose more than \$275 million/year in federal Medicaid funding beginning in FY2028 – RI needs this revenue to prevent a healthcare sector crisis and education sector crisis.

Additionally, I strongly oppose any attempts to weaken or eliminate the estate tax (which raises almost \$100 million/year in revenue that we need). I also strongly oppose any attempts to eliminate tax on social security income (which raises \$60 million/year in revenue that we need), because seniors earning less than \$107,000/year already don't have to pay taxes on their social security income. Both of these proposals would primarily benefit the richest 20% of Rhode Islanders.

Rhode Island needs this revenue to fund essential programs that allow all Rhode Islanders to grow and thrive. Evidence from other states shows that there is no danger of the 1% moving out of state, and with this fair tax on the top earners we can raise the revenue Rhode Islanders need and deserve. I urge you to pass S-2238 for the overall wellbeing of our state.

Thank you,

Erin L. Papa, Ph.D.  
Resident of Providence, RI 02909  
Senate District 7