



SENATOR JEFF GORDON
THIRTY-FIFTH SENATE DISTRICT

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State of Connecticut

SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
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DEPUTY REPUBLICAN LEADER

RANKING MEMBER
VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE

March 19th, 2024

Dear Chairs Fonfara and Horn, Ranking Members Martin and Cheeseman, and Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee.

I am State Senator Jeff Gordon. I am proud to represent the people of Ashford, Chaplin, Coventry, Eastford, Ellington, Hampton. Stafford, Thompson, Tolland, Union, Vernon, Willington, and Woodstock

I am writing to express my strong support for *House Bill 5491 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR VETERANS WHO HAVE A SERVICE-CONNECTED PERMANENT AND TOTAL DISABILITY RATING*. This legislation aims to honor the sacrifices made by our veterans who have endured service-connected permanent and total disabilities by providing them with a well-deserved property tax exemption.

As a state senator and the ranking member of the Veterans and Military Affairs Committee, I have had the privilege of meeting and working alongside many veterans, witnessing firsthand their dedication, bravery, and selflessness in defense of our nation. It is our duty to ensure that they are properly cared for upon their return home, and this proposed legislation is a crucial step in fulfilling that duty.

Veterans who have sustained service-connected permanent and total disabilities face unique challenges upon their return to civilian life. The financial burden of property taxes should not be an additional source of stress for these individuals and their families, particularly for those who are 100 percent disabled. By granting them a property tax exemption, we can alleviate some of their financial worries and demonstrate our gratitude for their sacrifices.

An item of consideration for HB 5491 is about finding a way for the State to reimburse municipalities for any lost property tax revenue that might arise. However, data provided to the Veterans and Military Affairs Committee indicates that the number of affected veterans in any individual municipality is small and thus the financial impact for any municipality likewise might be small, with some municipalities not having affected veterans,

I urge you to support HB 5491. By doing so, we can honor the service and sacrifice of our veterans and ensure that they receive the recognition and support they deserve.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey A. Gordon MD".

Jeffrey Gordon MD

State Senator 35th District

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