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## MISSOURI SENATE

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# Sen. Crowell Leads the Fight to Reduce Taxes for Missouri Seniors

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JEFFERSON CITY—Sen. Jason Crowell, R-Cape Girardeau, today filed a bill that would eliminate the unreasonable state income tax on senior citizens Social Security benefits.

There are over a quarter of a million seniors in Missouri whose hard-earned money is taxed as income by state government.

“These seniors have paid into Social Security for decades,” Crowell said. “Our seniors have already paid taxes on this money once. It’s not fair to have them pay twice.”

By eliminating this unneeded tax on Social Security benefits, the state of Missouri would put \$116 million back into the pockets of its seniors or the equivalent of more than \$49 a month per senior citizen affected by this tax.

Social Security benefits were not originally taxed, but because Missouri’s income tax is directly tied to the federal tax code, changes in 1984 resulted in a Missouri state income tax on these benefits. Missouri is one of only 15 states in the country that currently still taxes Social Security benefits as income.

“The state income tax on Social Security benefits is a tax we can afford to live without due to the upswing in our state’s economy and budget surplus,” Crowell said. “I hope my colleagues join me in the opportunity to support this bill benefiting our seniors.”

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