

In its March 22, 2020 issue, the Star Tribune has published a letter written by NARFE/MN Legislative VP Jim Ryan

Here is a link to the March 20th e-edition where that letter also appears:

<https://www.startribune.com/readers-write-sid-hartman-turns-100-mining-waste-shooting-ranges-state-taxes-and-social-security/568978892/>

Here is the text of the letter:

STATE TAXES

The proposed Social Security break and other considerations

I read with interest the March 15 [article](#) “Legislation looks at tax on Social Security benefits.” It seems appropriate to question how much eliminating state income tax would reduce the departure of Minnesota retirees out of state. The tax change last year increased deductions connected to Social Security, which lowered the tax burden for those beneficiaries providing significant relief from prior tax provisions.

That provided no relief for government retirees whose public service was under programs preceding Social Security and exempted as a result. When I began my career as a federal employee at the Social Security Administration, I was under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) that began in 1920, even though most workers at that time gained Social Security coverage when that program was introduced after 1934. My career, like many other public servants’, took me to other states, where I established connections and felt part of those other communities. As a result, I (and others like me) am more likely than most to comfortably leave Minnesota in retirement. I feel strongly that my life work makes me a real asset to the community through continued service and volunteer work now that I am retired.

Before we provide more Social Security tax breaks, we need to extend the current retirement income provisions in fairness to those retired public servants who spend a career dedicated to making sure benefits were available to all in our communities.

JIM RYAN, GOLDEN VALLEY

The writer is legislative vice president for the NARFE (National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association) Minnesota Federation.