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To Lansing State Journal

With all the official hand-wringing over the state budget, none of our leaders seem to have the courage to suggest taxing social security, pensions and IRA distributions. The IRS taxes these types of income, and so does Minnesota, Nebraska, Rhode Island and Vermont. In Michigan, taxable income from those sources totaled over \$32 billion in 2007.

It's time to stop thinking of seniors as impoverished. Of all the 2007 federal income tax returns from Michigan residents that reported social security benefits, 52% had incomes over \$50,000.

I think I speak for all seniors when I say we are ready to pay our share.

Steve Harry