

Submitter: David Huff
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3755
HB 3755 – Comments/Objections

HB 3755 offers a number of positives towards Property Tax Relief for Oregon Seniors.

However, I feel HB 3755 is only a good start, but now is not the time for a start, now is the time for significant and final Property Tax Relief for all Oregon Seniors. What we don't need is incremental help. Most Senior's will not live long enough to realize the fiscal help they need now.

My wife and I are 76 years old. I am a Service Connected Disabled Veteran. At 5% per year HB 3755 would provide us complete Property Tax Relief when we reach 96 years of age. How many 96 year olds in Oregon are still living in their homes? We need help now, not spread out slowly over 20 years.

We, and we are sure many seniors our age, are finding that property taxes in Oregon are becoming a major burden. Senior citizens in Oregon, for the most part, live on fixed incomes. The source(s) of this income does not provide increases at a rate that is equal to the increase we realize every year in our property taxes. Only 6.7% of the population in Oregon is 75 and over. We need property tax relief. It has been decades since Oregon did anything to protect seniors' homeownership.

In this time of increasing homelessness keeping a senior housed would be a good and popular thing for anyone to champion.

I've given this property tax problem a great deal of thought and have come up with a couple possible solutions.

One, would be a complete exemption of Property Taxes for Oregon Seniors starting at age 75. From age 65 to 74 Oregon Seniors would receive a 10% reduction in their Property Taxes each year until age 75. There would be no income restrictions on this exemption. The exemption would apply only to owner occupied properties with a minimum ownership of 10 years at the exempted property.

Or,

Two, would be complete exemption of all school related bonds and taxes to be implemented over the same time period and with the same income and residency

requirements. Note: On our current tax bill my wife and I pay \$3061.00 annually for school related taxes/bonds. That figure is 52% of our total property tax bill. We haven't had children in the Public School System for over 20 years and yet we are still paying for it.

Please be a hero to seniors in Oregon and sponsor a bill that would give us relief from high property taxes, and help us keep our homes.

Here is simple example of why we need help now.

With the unchecked approvals of PGE rate increases over the last two years my wife and I now pay an average of \$600 per month (\$7200 per year) for electricity. If you add that to our current expense of \$492 per month (\$5904 per year) for Property Taxes that equals a monthly expense of \$1092.00 (\$13,104 per year) before we even buy any food.

Thank you for your consideration and your help,

David E Huff
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