



Oregon Women's Rights Coalition

HB 3755 Exclusion of Senior Property Taxes-Oppose

Rep. Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Reschke and Walters and members of the committee.

The Oregon Women's Rights Coalition opposes this bill. There are numerous reasons.

According to Income by Zip Code who crunches the numbers from the 2023 American Community Survey, the mid-census standard many organizations use.

In 2023 there were 1,701,548 retirement age Oregonians. (The last year both census and tax filings are complete,)

612,557 of those have income under 59,999, the upper limit for the existing deferral program.

That leaves 696,586 retirees with incomes between \$60,000- \$150,000, the group who would also be exempt on the sliding scale from paying taxes.

The above groups total 1,309,143 who might be exempt from paying various amounts of property taxes.

But since somewhere between 70 and 80 percent of seniors rent at 70% that means 916,400 would not be paying some portion of their property taxes.

And the 30 percent of those seniors who rent and are most likely at the low end of the income spectrum would not get any relief as their landlords pay the property tax. (392,742)

The remainder retirees, 392,408, would be paying local property taxes.

That is the problem. It is easy to give away the taxes that the legislature does not control but it comes at a cost.

Property tax is the main source of revenue for local governments. Those governments provide services that all citizens like and some services on which seniors depend: schools, police, fire, emergency response, libraries and some transportation systems.

While seniors might not see any need for schools until they need someone to fix their plumbing, help them with daily living, or even drive them to appointments or to prepare their food either in a food establishment or in their home.

While the Senior and Disabled Deferral program pays the taxes due for all the taxing districts.....this bill does not.

It merely says that all seniors with income up to \$150,000 should not pay taxes just because they are seniors.

We urge you to invest some of the Deferral revolving fund to investigate why seniors are not using the deferral program and then market the program so those seniors are really struggling use the program.

We urge you to reject this proposal in its entirety.

Marcia Kelley

Public Policy Advocate

1. Income by Zip Code which uses the 2023 American Community Survey