

Submitter: Suzanne Washington

On Behalf Of: Older participants in our program

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure: SB 2

As the CEO of a nonprofit organization, Meals on Wheels People, I see first hand how challenging it is for older adults to keep up with the continual rise in housing costs. Those we serve often have to make a choice between paying their property taxes and many other things - food, heat, medicine. This bill will support home sharing programs that will help older people afford to stay in their own homes and to do so safely. The home share program will also reduce the isolation felt by older people and those with disabilities, which is extremely detrimental to their health, by providing the opportunity for companionship. Isolation has been equated to the negative affects of smoking 15 cigarettes a day - for both physical and mental health. Please support SB 2. The bill will incentivize people to get involved with the program and share their homes.