

April 3, 2013

The Honorable Phil Barnhart
State Capitol, Room H-383
Oregon House of Representatives
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Representative Barnhart:

My name is Martha Teich. I am a registered Democrat and have been a resident of Eugene since 1969. I am a retired educator and health care administrator. I am currently serving as a member of the Board of Directors of Cascade Manor, Eugene's only Continuing Care Retirement Community. I am sending this letter to urge you to vote no on HB 2056.

The Governor's proposal, contained in HB2056, to eliminate the Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRC) exemption from paying the nursing facility provider tax (aka: Long Term Care Facility Assessment) would be an unfair added burden for residents of these communities and must be opposed. Unlike skilled nursing facilities which participate in Medicaid and receive a returned benefit from this tax, Cascade Manor, like other CCRC's does not participate in Medicaid and residents of these communities would be paying this tax with no returned benefit. They would be paying this tax because of their age and choice of residence when others are not so taxed.

In 2001, the Legislature recognized that imposing this tax on CCRC's would be unfair and directed the state to seek the CCRC provider tax exemption. If this tax were to be imposed in 2013 it would remain an unfair tax. The state should not be placing a tax on seniors who have saved all their lives and financed their own retirement and care. Therefore I am urging you to vote no on HB 2056 unless the current exemptions are reinstated.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service on our behalf.

Sincerely,

Martha M. Teich