

Member Organizations 211 Info

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HB 2510: Senior & Disabled Property Tax Deferral program

Members of the House Committee on Revenue 900 Court Street, NE, Room 143 Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Barnhart, Vice-Chair Bailey, Vice-Chair Berger, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to you in support of HB 2510 with its –1 amendments, related to the Senior & Disabled Property Tax Deferral program. The Housing Alliance is a coalition of organizations serving all parts of Oregon. We are concerned about the availability of safe, decent and affordable housing for all Oregon residents, particularly residents who have limited incomes. We come together as a coalition because we know the importance of a stable home in affording Oregonians the ability to maximize their potential and build better futures for themselves and their loved ones.

Today, too many of our seniors and people with disabilities who live on fixed incomes depend on the senior and disabled property tax deferral program for stability and to maintain their housing. There is no other program that offers this security. The Housing Alliance supports HB 2510 with its –1 amendments because the Senior & Disabled Property Tax Deferral program has kept many Oregonians with fixed incomes in their home, stable and safe.

Unfortunately, changes made to the program in 2011 made a number of people ineligible for the deferral. The changes in 2012 brought some of the people who were otherwise eligible, except for the fact that they had reverse mortgages back into the program for two years as long as they re-certified. Though HB 2489 took away the uncertainty by granting permanent eligibility, there are people who did not recertify for a number of reasons.

We are requesting your support for the basic concepts in HB 2510 with its -1 amendments, which will allow those who were in the program prior to 2012, and continued to be eligible except for having a reverse mortgage or have not occupied their homes for five years or more to reapply to be in the program. It will also include people who did not recertify or reapply when the changes went into effect because they thought they were ineligible.

The Housing Alliance urges your support of HB 2510 with its –1 amendments.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony, and for your work on behalf of Oregon communities.

Alison McIntosh

On Behalf of the Housing Alliance

Alisa M'enfra