



SB 849 A new tax break for homebuyer savings accounts

Senate Business and Transportation – Anne Nese – 3.22.2017

Regarding tax breaks for homebuyers saving for a down payment, it is Tax Fairness Oregon's consistent contention that Oregon has to be more frugal with its tax breaks. The use of this program will likely resemble that of the 529 college savings program providing a subsidy for our most comfortable citizens. The 529 program will cost the General Fund \$40 million this coming biennium, and provide 87% of its benefit to the top 20% of taxpayers.

Further, the 529 program is placed within the Treasurer's Office, with public oversight, this proposed homebuyer savings program is not, and will be difficult and expensive to administer.

We do not support SB 849. Instead, we support programs that target homebuyer assistance to low income and minority communities managed by Oregon Housing and Community Services.