

As an Oregonian deeply invested in the well-being of my community, I find myself compelled to vehemently oppose House Joint Resolution 201. This proposed amendment to the Oregon Constitution, mandating a state property tax to fund public safety, not only threatens the economic stability of our households but also raises significant questions about transparency, accountability, and the potential erosion of our property values.

The imposition of a state property tax, as outlined in this resolution, hits close to home. For individuals and families already grappling with the rising costs of living, this additional financial burden could tip the scales, making it even more challenging to make ends meet. The seemingly modest rate of \$0.25 per \$1,000 of property value can quickly add up, affecting the livelihoods of hardworking Oregonians who may already be stretching their budgets to cover essential expenses.

Moreover, the potential impact on the housing market directly affects me as a homeowner and as someone invested in the prosperity of our neighborhoods. The resolution lacks a comprehensive analysis of how this tax might influence property values. The prospect of diminished home values not only undermines the financial security of homeowners but also jeopardizes the dream of homeownership for aspiring Oregonians. This could create a ripple effect, affecting the stability of our communities and the vibrancy of our neighborhoods.

The delegation of tax implementation authority to an administrative body, as proposed in this resolution, raises concerns about how my tax dollars will be managed. As a taxpayer, I expect transparency and accountability from my government, and the delegation of such significant power without clear oversight mechanisms raises red flags. Without stringent safeguards in place, there is a risk that the funds collected under the guise of public safety could be diverted elsewhere, undermining the trust we place in our elected representatives.

Furthermore, the lack of flexibility in the proposed fixed tax rate fails to acknowledge the economic uncertainties that Oregonians face. During times of economic downturns or crises, a fixed rate may exacerbate financial challenges for families, making it even more difficult to weather the storm.

In conclusion, while I share the desire to ensure robust funding for public safety, House Joint Resolution 201 threatens the economic stability of Oregonians like me. The potential consequences on household budgets, property values, and the overall economic landscape demand careful consideration and a more nuanced approach that prioritizes the well-being of Oregonians without compromising our financial security and the dream of homeownership.

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