

Submitter: Connie W
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB4075

I oppose HB 4075/HJR 201

#1 UNFAIR TAX INCREASE

Oregonians' property taxes already increase often due to increasing property valuations. Property taxes are not based on a taxpayer's ability to pay, like personal income tax is. What about the retired couple on a fixed income who have lived in their house for 30 years? Their property taxes have continued to significantly increase. It's not fair.

"Oregon home owning seniors are more likely to be housing cost burdened than the national average...Seventeen percent of the over 65 homeowners without mortgages reported that they were cost burdened, while 45 percent of older owners with mortgages reported being cost burdened." - <https://states.aarp.org/oregon/home-share-a-new-housing-option>

And now you're wanting to punish property owners - including seniors - more.

#2 OREGON DOESN'T HAVE A FUNDING PROBLEM - IT HAS A SPENDING/MANAGEMENT PROBLEM

More than 90 percent of the state budget goes to three key areas:
(<https://www.ocpp.org/2021/04/15/8-things-know-about-oregons-tax-system/>)

- 1) education
- 2) health and human services, and
- 3) public safety.

Where is all of our taxpayer money going???

Oregon has been embroiled in scandals and negative audits regarding our education system and health and human services. (Maybe there would be more money for public safety if education and HHS were managed better.) Just a couple examples (there are more than this) include:

"Federal auditors have flagged problems in the Oregon Health Authority's oversight of mental health grants, including the potential misappropriation of more than half a million dollars." - <https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2023/06/15/audit-indicates-oregon-health-authority-mishandled-hundreds-of-thousands-of-dollars-in-federal-mental-health-grants/>

"...the Office of Child Welfare, within the state's vast Department of Human Services, has failed to keep up with legal mandates and the increased demand for state intervention. At the same time, the Office of Child Welfare has faced scandals, like the discovery in 2015 that the Give Us This Day foster home in Portland was running "substandard facilities" and using improper force against foster children...The audit dug into four initiatives that never delivered promised improvements." - <https://www.opb.org/news/article/oregon-child-welfare-audit-secretary-state/>

Oregon doesn't have a funding problem - they have a spending and management problem. It's unfortunate that our public safety services require more money. But this bill is simply another bandaid that Oregonians have to pay for. And as Oregonians we need to REFUSE paying more in taxes until Oregon fixes their problems; otherwise, we'll keep enabling them...and they'll continue to ask Oregon taxpayers for more money to fund their screwups.

I'll consider paying more in taxes once I have confidence in Oregon's competence. In the meantime, we shouldn't be enabling bad behavior.