

Submitter: April Bailey
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HJR201

Oregon state legislators,

As a wife, mother of four, Republican PCP, and active participant in our constitutional republic I vehemently OPPOSE this bill.

1. Oregonians cannot afford ONE more tax or state required fee! As a lifetime citizen of this state that loves the people and land, I am monthly in conversations with my husband about the limiting principles of our continued residency here. This rule with the bill HB 4075 may be our limit. Though our family lives frugally, my husband works 50-60 hours per week, and I have worked part-time while homeschooling our children, we have to this date not been able to purchase our own home. We currently are working on a plan to purchase property and build, but this bill will make that possibility unsustainable in rural Tillamook County. IF a working family cannot afford to purchase and maintain a home, how can elderly or infirm individuals on fixed incomes afford to stay in their purchased homes with this new tax?

2. Counties and local districts already tax property owners at hefty rates to maintain basic public infrastructure. In southern Tillamook County our property taxes have doubled in the last 5 years, due to school bonds (passed by less than 20 votes) and a fire district bond desperately needed due to the strains caused by our tourist economy, aging population, and the decriminalization of drugs that causes increased motor vehicle accidents. This has increased rent significantly in our area. My estimation is by 33%. NO ONE can afford another tax for services that they will likely not to benefit from.

3. Counties that need to further fund public safety should do so at their own expense. Our large land mass of a county had major budget disputes about funding public safety last year. However, due to public input, public safety through continued funding stability for our county sheriff was placed as a high priority. Counties struggling with public safety must do the same. They also must hold their prosecutors and public safety officers accountable to charge and convict criminals, not pass their refusal to do their duty onto citizens of other counties. This is also an issue because legislators and executives of our state have embraced financially depleting policies such as declaring us a "sanctuary state" for illegal immigrants and refusing to address the industrial drug cartel that induces high rates of crime and murders our citizens through distribution of deadly doses of fentanyl--which my brother died from an overdose.

In short, this bill is morally evil. It is repugnant to ask citizens (including many elderly and infirm) of other counties to fund "public safety" for counties who have refused to fund their own public safety and enforce law and order. It will increase the risk of homelessness and possibly decrease the total tax revenue of the state: Because many of us will be forced to leave forever.