

Submitter: Stephen Wright

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2301

My testimony is in opposition to House Bill 2301 which sets a \$7 million exclusion amount and imposes a flat tax of seven percent in Oregon's taxable estate taxes.

My opposition to this bill is for the following three reasons:

- The proposed bill benefits only a tiny slice of the already best-off children whose parents left them millions of dollars in inheritance.

What problem does this bill solve when the rich will get richer and the poorer will get less in state services as a consequence.

- This bill as well as 16 other proposed estate bills doesn't correctly address legislative issues needed to develop robust Oregon estate tax policies.

Recommend amending this bill to institute an Oregon gift tax, mirroring the Federal law and ending this big tax loophole in Oregon's estate tax law, which of course only benefits the best off Oregonians.

- How is this legislature going to react to a loss in reduced estate revenues? The Revenue Office has not estimated the tax revenue loss associated with this bill. However, independent loss estimates are between \$400 to \$500 million per biennium

For the legislature to correspondingly reduce education, health care, and public welfare budgeted levels by the same amount is not fiscally responsible to the vast majority of Oregonians' needs and desires.

Thank you.