

Submitter: LaJuana Decker
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3755

I urge the members of the House Committee on Revenue to support HB 3755. Oregonian senior citizens face serious threats to their ability to remain in their homes. Social Security cost of living increases have not only failed to keep up with inflation; they have also been more than eaten up by the rising cost of Medicare and prescription drugs. Many seniors are forced to continue to work even to their own physical harm just to pay their property taxes; some are forced to take out loans each year to pay those taxes. These are people who are not using the school system; they are not using many of the services paid for by property taxes. At a certain point in life, their health will no longer allow them to work, so they are being forced to go without healthy food, necessary medications, and heat just to live in the home they spent a lifetime paying to make their own.

Helping seniors to age in place is one of the most cost-effective ways to ensure a roof over the head of the elderly. Every other option is expensive--either for caregivers or for state social services/taxpayers.

The one amendment I would like to see in this bill is to remove the ten-year residency requirement. Many elderly people downsize into a smaller home that they are able to manage independently. These people also deserve a property tax exemption to ensure they are able to stay in their own home as long as possible, avoiding dependency on others or on the taxpayers.

Again, please vote yes on HB 3755.