

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SJR1

My husband and I lived frugally for decades, by choice. Our interests and entertainments tended toward outdoor activities - camping, hiking, XC skiing, etc., the occasional restaurant meal, and visiting family. He was a PERS public employee, so we took advantage of every investment program they offered and saved rigorously, based on the examples of both sets of parents who were raised in the 1930's depression.

Now elderly we face physical hardships that are depleting our well-laid financial plans. He has gone from being a strong, vigorous outdoorsman to a wheelchair bound Parkinson's patient with dementia. He needs full time care, and I'm not strong enough to take care of him. He is in foster care, and has been for 2 years.

We downsized 8 years ago, and I live in a house designed to be an age-in-place residence. Every dollar I spend on his care and my living expenses now comes out of our investments which need to last. I cut back on whatever I can, but there's a limit. Our current annual property tax is over \$6000 and rises every year. We've always supported schools, libraries, parks, public works. He built waste-water systems for Environmental Services. But our money can't last forever, and the property taxes, especially for people on fixed incomes are a hardship - if not now, they will definitely be in the future.

I urge you to either cut or reduce property taxes for older people on fixed incomes. Or halt them at the original house price. This amount every year is a burden to so many.