

Submitter: Debra Kirby  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Special Committee On Referendum Petition  
2026-302  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1599

Oregonians have overcome hurdles and red tape to voice our objections to yet another tax increase - the HB 3991 passed by Oregon Legislature in September 2025. As one of thousands of retired Oregon residents this proposed tax hike will gravely effect many senior citizens. If this tax passes as it has been proposed many seniors will be forced to do without something. It might mean they will not being able to things like enjoying eating dinner out, or having guests over. With age comes a multitude of expenses that happen simply because we get older. Medical care becomes a big issue, the cost of service work for things we can no longer do for ourselves becomes a new burden. Some seniors will not able to purchase healthy food options and instead will have to choose food based strictly on pricing.....or skip meals altogether from time to time. Not all seniors are in the same exact situation but for the majority of seniors there is not much wiggle room in what they can afford with the funds they have available to them. The addition of a huge tax increase will be devastating for many seniors. Most seniors live month to month on a very tight income, and an even more streamlined life style. For them their financial situation is already stretched to the point that constant worry and anxiety will weigh heavily on them all their remaining days. The concern of whether the retirement funds they worked and saved throughout their lives will be enough to get them through to the end. But as taxes and expenses continue to go up their income remains the same. Oregonians have joined together, gathered 250,000 signatures, and ask for this tax to be put to a vote in November. As an Oregon resident for over 60 years I ask you, I pray, I plead that you stand firm on the November general election date and not move this matter to the May 19 primary date. Please let the citizens of Oregon have a voice. Respectfully, Debra Kirby.