

Member Organizations 211 Info AFSCME Local #3135 **Bienestar** CASA of Oregon Central City Concern City of Éugene City of Gresham City of Portland City of Tigard Clackamas County Clackamas Housing Action Network Coalition for a Livable Future Community Action Partnership of Oregon Community Action Team, Inc. Community Alliance of Tenants Community Housing Fund Community Partners for Affordable Housing Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon Enterprise Community Partners Fair Housing Council of Oregon Farmworker Housing Development Corp. Habitat for Humanity of Oregon Hacienda CDC Homeless Families Coalition Housing Advocacy Group of Washington Co. Housing Development Center Human Solutions Impact Northwest JOIN Lane County Legal Aid and Advocacy Center League of Women Voters of Oregon Lincoln County Metro NAYA Family Center Neighborhood Economic Development Corp. Neighborhood Partnerships NeighborWorks Umpgua Network for Oregon Affordable Housing Northwest Housing Alternatives Northwest Pilot Project Oregon Action Oregon Food Bank Oregon Housing Authorities Oregon Opportunity Network Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, Inc.

Proud Ground Raphael House REACH CDC Rose CDC St. Vincent DePaul of Lane County Shelter Care Sisters Of The Road Street Roots Transition Projects, Inc. Washington County Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services

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HB 2510: Senior & Disabled Property Tax Deferral program

Members of the House Committee on Revenue 900 Court Street, NE, Room 143 Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Barnhart, Vice-Chair Bailey, Vice-Chair Berger, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to you in support of HB 2510 with its –1 amendments, related to the Senior & Disabled Property Tax Deferral program. The Housing Alliance is a coalition of organizations serving all parts of Oregon. We are concerned about the availability of safe, decent and affordable housing for all Oregon residents, particularly residents who have limited incomes. We come together as a coalition because we know the importance of a stable home in affording Oregonians the ability to maximize their potential and build better futures for themselves and their loved ones.

Today, too many of our seniors and people with disabilities who live on fixed incomes depend on the senior and disabled property tax deferral program for stability and to maintain their housing. There is no other program that offers this security. The Housing Alliance supports HB 2510 with its –1 amendments because the Senior & Disabled Property Tax Deferral program has kept many Oregonians with fixed incomes in their home, stable and safe.

Unfortunately, changes made to the program in 2011 made a number of people ineligible for the deferral. The changes in 2012 brought some of the people who were otherwise eligible, except for the fact that they had reverse mortgages back into the program for two years as long as they re-certified. Though HB 2489 took away the uncertainty by granting permanent eligibility, there are people who did not recertify for a number of reasons.

We are requesting your support for the basic concepts in HB 2510 with its -1 amendments, which will allow those who were in the program prior to 2012, and continued to be eligible except for having a reverse mortgage or have not occupied their homes for five years or more to reapply to be in the program. It will also include people who did not recertify or reapply when the changes went into effect because they thought they were ineligible.

The Housing Alliance urges your support of HB 2510 with its –1 amendments.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony, and for your work on behalf of Oregon communities.

Alisa m'enfre

Alison McIntosh On Behalf of the Housing Alliance