

February 21, 2021

Dear Chair Nathanson, Co-Chairs Pham, Reschke and House Revenue Committee Members,

I would like to bring to your attention a problem with the property tax deferral program. This problem can be easily resolved as it just requires a small technical fix which already has the support of the Department of Revenue.

My parents, as well as my disabled sister moved into their home in Canby in June of 1980. My dad passed away in 1992 and my mom in October of 2019 at the age of 95. My mom had been a participant in the property tax deferral program since 2009 and I am trying to have my sister enrolled in the program. My sister suffers from Cerebral Palsy, Parkinson's, Schizophrenia, and Dementia. The house is being put in a special needs trust which I will be in charge of. My wife and I have been taking care of her and my mom for the past 10 years. I have reached out to the program and she does not qualify - only surviving spouses do. I spoke to Christy Baty in the policy department and she wishes there was something she could do but it would take legislative action. She also mentioned that this was something in the works for the next session as it has been coming up more frequently.

On August 15th I needed to come up with \$32,000 or be sent to collections. We are not a family of wealth and will not be able to make this payment. More and more people are keeping their disabled adult children at home. My sister is 66 years old and has lived in this house for 40 years. My sister's health is declining and can't imagine the effect it would be on her to have to relocate. She feels at peace in the room she and my mom shared and often talks with her like she is still there. My hope is this could be brought up at the special session and acted upon. I believe this is a non-partisan issue something both sides could quickly decide on. We are not the only family currently in this situation in the State of Oregon. I want to thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. I would be happy to supply you with more documentation if needed. Please vote to support HB 2634.

Sincerely,

David Fife
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