

Submitter: Nancy Rohn  
On Behalf Of: all citizens opposed to higher taxes  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HJR201

Dear House Committee on Rules Members,

I am writing in opposition of HJR 201 which would create an administrative authority for funding public safety. This is a punitive burden on those of us who already pay taxes towards the hiring, training, salaries and 20 year PERS Law Enforcement/Firefighter Retirement program for public safety hirees. Public Safety personnel are already privileged to collect retirement pay earlier than other professions. I think their healthy paychecks and PERS Retirements are adequate. For you legislators to consider additional taxes to generate revenue for public safety would be creating hardship on other Oregonians. I already pay bloated property taxes, some of which dump directly into 509J Corvallis School District coffers and there is no oversight from the state as to how those funds are correctly/incorrectly handled. The school district does not have to justify how it spends OUR money and there have been some questionable expenditures. Thus, by creating another taxing platform to prop up already healthy public safety salaries/hiring, you will be creating more distrust in your tax base. In addition, the legislature will be compromising the financial security of millions of retired and lower income Oregonians if you pass this bogus bonus propping up public safety. Clean up the mess that is already apparent in our systems without penalizing tax payers. The State Hospital system is a mess. Why don't you focus your attention on that instead of creating new revenue resources for a slice of our society that is amply paid already??

This is how you spend your time in the legislature? We have a huge homeless problem, food insecurity to the point of having to feed kids 3 meals per day in school, lack of good health care, and an enormous drug problem and your frittering away your time robbing Oregonians of resources in order to prop up an already thriving career field? You have failed us. I am urging you to get your priorities straight and not pass this piece of legislature. And then go back to your constituents and beg their forgiveness for even considering another tax burden upon them. Shame on you. Nancy Rohn