

13 February 2024

TO: Chair Fahey, Vice Chair Helfrich, Vice Chair Kroph, & Members of House Committee on Rules

Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

FROM: Laurie Kimmell, MSgt, USAF (Ret.)

SUBJECT: Argument not in Favor of HJR

ATTENTION: FOR ALL REVIEWING AUTHORITIES

1. Please accept this as my testimony for HJR-201. HJR-201 puts severe strain on disabled veterans. Some veterans are barely making a living and those who are disabled cannot work, cannot make up the income and get caught – up in Federal red tape (concurrent receipt) and what compensation benefits they receive from their Veterans Administration) disability is deducted from their pension (less than 50% disabled). The Oregon Disabled Veteran or surviving Spouse Property tax exemption is only 10% and the veteran must have a 40% VA disability to qualify. The disabled Veteran income tax exemption (as proposed in SB 1549) only covers those who make \$17,500 in retirement pay or pension received for service in the Armed Forces of the United States and there is an age restriction that discriminates against retired military members that are also, senior citizens on a fixed income.
2. HJR-201 **expropriates Measure # 5**. **Measure # 5** was supported by the Willamette Week and passed by 52% of voting Oregonians. Measure # 5 changed the state's overall tax burden and the trajectory of state spending. HJR - 201 does the opposite. It establishes a special \$1 per \$1000 real property tax assessment resulting in **\$504 million dollars of revenue**.
3. Oregonians rank **# 3** in nation as the *poorest* due to high taxes (personal income tax, property, CAT tax (personal income shrinks). Oregon State government is ranked *fourth biggest* in the nation measure by per capita spending. Oregon has more tax cash than **46 other states**. HJR-201 introduces another raise in property tax which hits fixed incomes, those disabled, veterans, and senior citizens.

Thank you,

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LAURIE KIMMELL, MSgt, USAF (Ret.)