

Submitter: Robert Jordan
On Behalf Of: All Retired Oregonians
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB124

Written Testimony in Support of SB 124---a Bill Relating to the State of Oregon
Estate Tax

I urge further consideration and passage of SB 124. Oregon has one of the most onerous death taxes of all 50 states. Oregon has not kept up to date with either federal estate tax exemption amounts, or with any other states as to tax rates and/or exemptions. Oregon's estate tax laws became antiquated decades ago.

Oregon's neighbors California, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Wyoming, Alaska and 26 other states have no estate tax at all.

Of the states that do have an estate tax, Oregon has the lowest exemption amount and among the highest tax rates in the nation. Oregon has an exemption amount of only \$1 million, and death tax rates of up to 16%. In 2025 nearly any retired family that owns a house and has modest retirement savings after a lifetime of hard work can easily have assets far exceeding the \$1 million exemption amount. Why should Oregonians, out of citizens of all 50 states, be so onerously penalized from passing on their rewards of lifetimes of work to their children? Even Hawaii, which has slightly higher estate tax rates, has exemption amounts of \$5.5 million for a single person and \$11 million for a married couple, five times those of Oregon.

As you no doubt know, the federal exemption amounts are over \$13 million for a single person and \$26 million for a married couple. Proposed SB 124 gives Oregon a chance to position Oregon at least closer to the federal federal exemption amount, and bring it closer to national norms exemplified in other states.

As it is, Oregon is onerously profiting via death taxes on the lifetimes of hard work of Oregon families via exemption amounts and tax rates not updated to reflect inflation and national norms for several decades.

It is long past time for Oregon to come back to reality, to get more in line with the laws of other states and with federal laws, and update its death tax laws.

Thank you for further considering my strong urging of support for SB 124.

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