

Submitter: D Torres
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3249

Honorable Members of the Committee,

I stand in strong support of the bill that seeks to provide a partial exemption from ad valorem property taxes on the owner-occupied principal dwelling of individuals who are at least 65 years of age, as well as their surviving spouses, regardless of their age. This bill addresses critical issues that many senior citizens and their families face in maintaining homeownership as they age.

The rising cost of living and property taxes presents a significant burden to older homeowners, particularly those living on fixed incomes. Social Security, pensions, and retirement savings often do not keep pace with the rising costs of housing and other essentials. For many, the property tax burden can become overwhelming, potentially leading to the loss of their homes and an erosion of their financial stability in their later years.

By offering a partial exemption, this bill would provide much-needed relief to seniors, allowing them to stay in their homes without fear of being forced out due to unaffordable tax increases. It ensures that long-time homeowners, who have contributed to the community throughout their lives, can continue to reside in the neighborhoods they helped build. Additionally, this measure would ease the strain on surviving spouses who may be left without a full source of income after the loss of their partner. This exemption is a compassionate and pragmatic solution to address the financial vulnerability that seniors and surviving spouses face in an ever-changing economic landscape.

Further, this bill is a sound investment in our communities. Seniors are often a pillar of local economies and neighborhood cohesion. Ensuring that they can age in place in their homes fosters stability, reduces the need for costly government assistance programs, and enhances the overall well-being of society.

In closing, I urge you to pass this bill, which represents a critical step toward protecting our seniors, honoring their contributions, and ensuring they are able to live out their years with dignity and security.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Donna Torres
Douglas County, Oregon