



Oregon Women's Rights Coalition

## HB 2362 Estate Tax Additional Exemption-Oppose

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Reschke, Walters and members of the committee.

The Oregon Women's Rights Coalition advocates for programs which support women and families in their journey to self-sufficiency. We advocate for sound revenue policies that advance that effort by opposing policies that provide additional advantages through the tax code for those Oregonians who do not struggle.

The bill before you would allow an additional \$1.5 million exemption from estate tax for estates up to 4.5 million. It also ratchets down an additional exemption until the estate reaches \$8.5 million.

*Prior to the current \$1 million exemption, an estate can deduct funeral expenses, debt as well as bequests to the surviving spouse or charities.*

Given the current national upheaval affecting federal support for its' citizens, we urge you to leave the \$1 million exemption in place and not make it more generous.

You have heard from others about challenges from national support declines in programs that help struggling families in our state. We will add another program whose future may be in doubt.

The LIHEAP program helps struggling households with heating assistance in the winter and the cost of air conditioning in the summer. This week the entire staff supporting this program were "RIFed" or reduced in force. With no staff at the Federal level will this program exist going forward.

We urge you to take no action on this bill for the sake of Oregonians who struggle to put food on the table and a roof over their family's heads.

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