



HB 2362: Another Estate Tax Bill

House Revenue Committee – Jody Wiser – 4.3.2025

As you are aware, Tax Fairness Oregon doesn't believe Oregon's \$1,000,000 estate tax exemption is a "problem to be solved." There are 22 estate tax bills so far this session. This bill is better than most. But it is no magic bullet. SB 498 in 2023 didn't make the issue disappear, and HB 2362 in 2025 won't either.

We believe \$1,000,000 in homes and financial assets without a penny of tax is plenty for those kids who won the birth lottery. Given that most kids have two parents, that's actually \$2,000,000, particularly if you act on HB 3934 which significantly eases the portability of the exemption of the first parent to die.

At most, 5½% of estates have paid the estate tax in recent years. That means 94½% of estates paid no tax.

The estate tax is not taxing middle class families or working class families. It's taxing those who may identify that way but have in fact moved into the top 5%. When their estates pay a tax, it will not change the lives of their children.

Paying \$100,000 tax on a \$2,000,000 estate will not eliminate their generational wealth.

In 2022, there were about 2,200 estates that paid the Oregon estate tax. Any change enacted that increases the exemption is a gift to a similar very small group.

Meanwhile last year over 750,000 Oregonians needed SNAP benefits to help feed themselves and 22,000 Oregonians are homeless. What kind of value system do we have if we prioritize giving more to the children who already have so much while reducing resources needed for those who are barely getting by.

Proponents also claim that we need to adjust the exemption for inflation, but they haven't been at the table insisting that those supported by TANF get adjusted for inflation.

State revenue of roughly \$700 million is at risk. Giving more to those who won the birth lottery while cutting support for those who struggle to survive is not defensible.

We read the bills and follow the money

