



Offices of Representatives Hai Pham, Christine Drazan, Mari Watanabe & E. Werner Reschke

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Press Contact:

Office of Representative Hai Pham, rep.haipham@oregonlegislature.gov

Office of Representative Christine Drazan, rep.christinedrazan@oregonlegislature.gov

Office of Representative Mari Watanabe, rep.mariwatanabe@oregonlegislature.gov

Office of Representative E. Werner Reschke, rep.ewernerrescke@oregonlegislature.gov

Oregon Lawmakers Aim to Address State's Lowest Estate Tax Threshold in the Country

HB 3934 aims to make Oregon more affordable for families to grow and retire

SALEM, Ore. - Representatives Pham and Drazan testified in support of [HB 3934](#) which allows for portability of Oregon's estate taxes for married couples. If a spouse passes away, portability allows the widowed spouse to use any unused portion of their estate tax exemption within 1 year. The bill mirrors the federal estate tax portability exemption and ensures that married couples are not penalized for timing or unexpected life circumstances when planning their estates.

During the hearing, legislators learned that Oregon has the [lowest estate tax threshold in the nation](#), creating barriers for families who have their assets tied to land, equipment, businesses, and infrastructure.

"We need bold legislation that ensures Oregonians who have worked hard and saved are able to pass it on to the next generation," **said Rep. Hai Pham (D-S Hillsboro, W Beaverton)**.

"HB 3934 modernizes Oregon's estate tax laws and protects family-owned businesses, land, and homes."

"Oregonians should not have to create complicated and expensive estate plans to get the benefit of their spouse's exemption," **said House Republican Leader Christine Drazan (R-Canby)**. "This bill helps surviving spouses keep more of their wealth and pass it on to their children."

A home, business, or land are often the greatest asset a family member leaves behind after their death. HB 3934 enables working families and middle-class Oregonians to pass on their homes and truly create generational wealth for their loved ones. This bill levels the playing field.

“I know that many working families work hard to build up their assets and legacy over their lifetime,” **said Rep. Watanabe (D-Bethany)**. “HB 3934 will pave the way for more seniors and families to pass along their generational wealth to uplift the next generation.”

“I continue to push for reform to Oregon’s Estate Tax policy,” said **Rep. E. Werner Reschke (R-Klamath Falls)**, Vice Chair of the House Revenue Committee. “Currently, Oregon carries the most punitive estate tax in the nation. What this means is that heirs of an estate in Oregon, including those modest by today’s standards, often have to pay additional and unexpected taxes on their inheritance. Reform is absolutely necessary.”

The bill has bipartisan, bicameral support with 33 sponsors. HB 3934 now waits to be scheduled for a work session in the House Revenue Committee.

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