

**Madam Chair and members of the committee:**

My name is Gayle Sherman. I share with you my thoughts as to why I support SB 91, Golden Years Property Tax Freeze.

I am a 72 year old, middle income widow who owns my own home and enjoys a fairly comfortable lifestyle by spending wisely and by living within my means. I am able to do some traveling, enjoy things like lunch with friends, attending movies and theater events and taking in some of the interesting events offered in Lawrence.

I volunteer for different organizations and contribute my time and talent to causes important to me and my community.

While my income is fixed in retirement, every year my expenses increase due to increased cost of living. Social security increases never equal the cost of living increases. And property tax increases seem to be the norm these days - another reason expenses continue to go up and up.

The folks who make budgetary decisions at the state and local level don't seem to realize these increases pose an ongoing problem for seniors with fixed incomes. People like myself with a fixed income face this continuing problem. What to cut out to keep up!

Lately, I have started to wonder if these continuing increases in property taxes will mean eventually I may not be able to stay in my home.

Recently when I read the legislation Tom Holland is proposing to freeze property taxes for seniors who own their own homes, I thought "Finally, somebody is aware of our problem!"