



SEN. GEORGE RUNNER (RET.)

MEMBER
STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
CALIFORNIA'S TAX BOARD

September 11, 2014

Governor Jerry Brown
ATTN: Brian Putler, Deputy Legislative Secretary
Governor's Office, Legislative Unit
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2231—PROPERTY TAX POSTPONEMENT LAW • REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE •

Dear Governor Brown:

I am pleased to support Assembly Bill 2231 (Gordon, Levine and Patterson), which reinstates the Senior Citizens and Disabled Citizens Property Tax Postponement (PTP) program to provide property tax deferment to qualified seniors and disabled persons starting July 1, 2016.

California can be an expensive place to live, especially on fixed low-to-moderate incomes. For 32 years, the PTP program allowed eligible homeowners to defer payment of all, or a portion of, the property taxes on their residences. Despite decades of benefiting senior and disabled Californians, the PTP program was indefinitely suspended in 2009 by the Legislature.

In my four years on the Board, my office has received hundreds of calls from potentially qualified Californians seeking to apply for the PTP program because of significant hardships. If signed into law, AB 2231 would allow qualified homeowners to postpone their property tax payments until they sell the property. In exchange, the state will place a lien on the property, which is payable with interest when the property is sold.

The Senior Citizens and Disabled Citizens Property Tax Postponement Law has a proven track record of helping reduce the financial burden of thousands of low-to-moderate and fixed-income seniors and disabled persons. As was the case before suspending the program in 2009, the PTP program will eventually be self-sustaining when loan payments and accumulated interest begin to offset program expenditures.

While the PTP program is not a long-term solution to the financial challenges facing many low-to-moderate income Californians, it is a workable and proven solution with an immediate impact to those in need. Therefore, I respectfully request your signature on AB 2231.

Sincerely,

GEORGE RUNNER
Second District