

Bill 45-23 does not solve the defects of present law as it applies to elderly senior citizens who are not retired or disabled military veterans. Currently, Montgomery County provides for real property tax credits to residential taxpayers 70 years of age or older who have paid property taxes for 40 years or more, provided their owner-occupied residential property is assessed at no more than \$700,000. There is no credit for anyone where their current year assessment is even one Cent (\$0.01) over \$700,000. I am sure that present law does not benefit many Montgomery County residents in District One, and the proposed expansion to 65 year olds who have been taxpayers for only 25 years or more will not help that much more.

The proposed amendment should allow the credit to be received by any residential taxpayer **up to** a \$700,000 (or \$899,000) assessment and there should not be such a low income ceiling to enjoy the credit. I would suggest a substantially larger ceiling lest this legislation be deemed a welfare or income redistribution benefit, not the just reward for faithful senior citizens whether age 65 or 70 and above. Thank you.

Submitted by Frederick H. Graefe and Michael McGovern