



KATE BROWN  
Governor

February 3, 2016

The Honorable Phil Barnhart, Chair  
House Revenue Committee  
900 Court St. NE H-279  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Barnhart and Members of the House Revenue Committee:

I am writing to express my support for HB 4131, relating to the collection of debts by state agencies. The Secretary of State issued an audit report in September, 2015, indicating that the State's collection agency, the Department of Revenue, lacks some of the tools it needs to be able to collect nearly a billion dollars it is responsible to collect.

House Bill 4131 requires financial institutions doing business in this state to work with the Department of Revenue to create a data exchange system to match debtor accounts for collection purposes. It also allows the Department of Justice's Division of Child Support to share employer reports of new hires with the Department of Revenue. These two tools are used by many other states.

The number of past due accounts receivable is growing, and we must take action to recover monies owed by employing best practices for collecting debt. I agree that the responsible agencies should have the tools they need to fulfill their statutory responsibilities.

HB 4131 is a positive step in this direction. I appreciate the efforts of Representative Taylor to find effective ways to recover debts effectively.

Sincerely,

Governor Kate Brown

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