



The A Better Oregon Coalition urges a no vote on SB 702

A Better Oregon is a coalition demanding adequate funding for schools, health care, care for seniors, and other critical services that support Oregon families and strengthen Oregon's economy. For too long, our dead-last corporate taxes have left our classrooms among the most crowded in the nation, thousands of seniors living in poverty, and working families across Oregon without health care. The reason for this is clear— Here in Oregon we allow corporations to pay the lowest taxes in the country.

Currently, because of Oregon's low corporate taxes, we face a \$1.6 billion dollar budget hole. Oregon families fill the gap that corporations leave behind to fund schools and services, so while all Oregonians deserve to pay less in taxes, until Oregon's corporations pay more, we simply cannot afford to cut taxes for individuals without major additional cuts to schools, health care and senior services. SB 702 would reduce income taxes for the first \$125,000 of personal income, including for people who make above \$125,000 a year. In our budget climate, we simply can't afford it.

We agree that because of Oregon's unstable and broken tax system, working families shoulder a disproportionate burden of the cost for critical public services. And the problem has been getting worse: In the mid 1970s, corporations contributed 18.5 percent of all Oregon income taxes. Today they pay just 6.7 percent, a decline of nearly two-thirds. If corporations paid their fair share for important public services, our state might be able to consider lowering income taxes hard-working families who earn less than \$125,000 a year. But until that happens, breaks on personal income taxes will only come at the expense of schools, health care, senior services, and other critical safety net programs that Oregonians rely on.