

HB 2128 Tax Expenditure Report

Chair Nathanson and members of the committee

The Oregon Women's Rights Coalition has considered the importance of the Tax Expenditure Report since at least 2001.

The report is useful to see how groups of Oregonians both individuals and companies have their taxes affected by exemptions, credits, and deductions.

We strongly oppose the removal of the Federal portion of the document. It is important to see how one set of taxpayers are treated by both the Federal government and Oregon.

While the state legislature cannot change Federal policy, highlighting Federal policy and how Oregon's tax code interacts with that policy should be of interest to legislators.

Oregon taxpayers are ultimately responsible for the salaries of those at the Department of Revenue. If part of their compensation is related to providing a document that educates the public on both Federal and Oregon tax expenditure spending it provides transparency.

In the Ways and Means process in Oregon the budget crafters would not leave out the effect of Federal funds for programs in Oregon. I see the tax expenditure book in the same way.

In 2001 I met Gerald Bieberle who was a leading force in the legislation that created the Tax Expenditure Report. I appreciated his mentorship and friendship for such a short time as he died that August. If he were here today, he would advocate for keeping the Federal portion.

Marcia Kelley

Public Policy Advocate