



HB 2868: Tax credits for foster parents - Another new idea without a new funding source

Testimony for House Revenue – Jody Wiser – 3.13.2019

Oregonians are terrific at coming up with ideas for spending money. However, they are far less invested in approving ideas for raising money! Many members of this committee are facing dueling and perhaps grueling choices during this legislative session: how to raise more revenue/ increase taxes on someone or something so Oregon can afford to fund its most basic needs and all these requests for tax credits.

Members of Tax Fairness Oregon study the bills that come before you. Like you, we do the math when Ways and Means allocates only \$40M to invest in current or new tax credits and we all know how few measures you can approve. We cringe and testify against some of the most frivolous requests for tax credits but like you, when it comes to a tax incentive that affects Oregon's children we struggle with our response. HB 2868 is not a frivolous request in light of the dearth of foster care parents in the state. ***But the fundamental issue is adequate funding for the state agency that administers the foster care system.***

With all due respect, until Oregon has tax policies that result in a fair and adequate revenue stream that funds the basic needs of its citizens, Tax Fairness Oregon cannot support tax credits, tax incentives, grants, or tax breaks, even for worthy ideas.

We urge you to spend your \$40M wisely, to invest in thoughtful tax policy reforms, and to keep a list of worthwhile ideas like HB 2868 for future consideration

We read the bills and follow the money