

Submitter: M Weaver

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Session Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3992

Over the past ten years, my family and I relocated to Oregon in pursuit of better opportunities in the healthcare field. The higher wages for nurses and the improved benefits for healthcare workers in Oregon were a significant draw compared to our previous location. We were struggling to make ends meet before, and Oregon seemed like a fresh start—a place where we could not only survive but thrive. Our goals were simple: to get ahead, save money, pay off student loans, buy a home, raise our daughter, and establish a foundation for the future.

However, in the decade since our move, our financial situation has become increasingly challenging. Taxes on our income have steadily increased, while the costs of living have surged. Our grocery bills have more than doubled, utilities have seen a significant rise, and our insurance premiums—despite having no claims and getting older—have skyrocketed. As a result, our monthly income is stretched thinner than ever, and simple luxuries like dining out have become a rare, often unfeasible, treat.

What is most disheartening is that we find ourselves in nearly the same financial position as when we first arrived, despite our hard work and dedication. The continual rise in living costs—exacerbated by higher payroll taxes, gas taxes, and other increased fees—has made it more difficult to meet basic needs like keeping the lights on, putting food on the table, and affording the commute to the job that pays for it all. The recent proposals to increase taxes further are concerning. The burden is falling squarely on the shoulders of hardworking Oregonians, and it is making it harder to simply maintain a stable quality of life. We are now forced to consider whether it would be more financially sustainable to leave Oregon once again, as the rising costs are becoming untenable.

We are grateful for the opportunities Oregon has provided, but the reality of living here is becoming increasingly difficult for families like ours. The cost of living is outpacing our ability to keep up, and it is forcing us to make difficult decisions about our future.

Oregonians are no longer thriving and able to support families or businesses, therefore businesses and families are being forced to move out of this state to better.

I ask that ODOT be financially audited, that they be held accountable to mismanagement of money, and that the state find other money they already took from us to fund needs, and start paying back Oregonians their hard earned money. This Government is running this state into the ground and we are tired. Those who voted yes... we see you and this matters the next time you run for a seat.

Please do NOT pass this. We can't take anymore!