

2/2/2026

Testimony in support of bill HB 4125

House Committee on Revenue

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chair Reschke, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sam Guthman, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of the APANO, a culturally-specific organization that unites Asians and the communities who stand with us to build power, develop leaders and advance equity through organizing, advocacy, community development and cultural work in **support** of House Bill 4125.

HB 4125 strengthens Oregon's approach to revenue forecasting and surplus management in a way that promotes fiscal stability and protects essential public services. Our communities are deeply affected when budget volatility leads to sudden cuts in education, health care, housing, and culturally specific services. More *accurate and transparent* revenue estimation helps prevent these disruptions.

Importantly, HB 4125 does not eliminate or repeal Oregon's kicker law. Instead, it reframes how surplus revenue is estimated and managed so that the state can budget more responsibly and predictably. The kicker remains intact, but the bill helps ensure that revenue forecasting methods do not artificially inflate surplus estimates in ways that destabilize core services. This is a pragmatic approach that respects voter intent while improving fiscal stewardship.

It is also important to acknowledge that under the current structure, the largest share of kicker benefits flows to wealthier households, who receive larger rebates. Meanwhile, communities with lower incomes—including many Asian, BIPOC, immigrant, and refugee families—are more likely to rely on public services that are cut or destabilized when revenue swings sharply from biennium to biennium. HB 4125 helps address this imbalance by promoting a budgeting framework that prioritizes stability and long-term investments while preserving the kicker itself.

For Asian, BIPOC, immigrant, and refugee communities, public investments are not abstract budget line items—they are lifelines. Programs funded through the General Fund support language access, behavioral health services, public health infrastructure, and community-based organizations that fill gaps left by historic underinvestment. When surplus revenue is returned without sufficient consideration of long-term needs, those communities often bear the cost through service instability and unmet needs.

HB 4125 also creates a framework to better manage excess revenue through a One-Time Emergencies and Finance Fund, allowing the state to respond to unforeseen challenges without

resorting to disruptive cuts. This structure promotes long-term planning and protects investments that advance equity across Oregon.

APANO believes that a stable, predictable budgeting process is essential to advancing racial and economic equity in Oregon. HB 4125 moves the state in that direction by improving transparency, accountability, and long-term fiscal planning.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the committee to **support HB 4125.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,
Sam Guthman
Policy Manager
APANO Communities United Fund