

Submitter:

Lellaniah Adams

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4145

To the Members of the House Committee on Revenue:

I am a resident of Marion County, Oregon, writing to strongly oppose House Bill 4125.

HB 4125 prescribes a new methodology for preparing revenue estimates used in the state budgeting process and for calculating the surplus revenue refund (commonly known as the "kicker"). It applies to estimates starting January 1, 2027, and requires the Department of Revenue to calculate differences between estimation methods, then transfer any resulting amounts to a new "One-Time Emergencies and Finance Fund" for purposes such as emergencies, debt reduction, PERS unfunded liabilities, capital projects, or other state needs.

The kicker is a voter-approved constitutional protection (added by Oregonians in 1980 and strengthened in 2000) that requires the state to refund excess personal income tax collections—when revenues exceed forecasts by 2% or more—directly back to taxpayers. This is our money, over-collected from hard-working Oregon families and businesses, not a surplus the government is entitled to keep or redirect. By changing how surpluses are calculated and potentially diverting portions away from full refunds into a state-controlled fund, this bill risks undermining or reducing future kicker returns. In Marion County and across Oregon, where costs for housing, groceries, utilities, and taxes continue to rise, taxpayers rely on these refunds for meaningful relief—whether paying bills, saving for education, or supporting local economies. Redirecting these funds to government priorities instead violates the intent of the Constitution and erodes taxpayer trust.

I urge the committee to reject HB 4125 and preserve the full integrity of the kicker as voters intended: returning over-collected taxes directly to the people who paid them, promoting fiscal discipline, and preventing unnecessary government expansion.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony and for considering the views of Marion County residents. I respectfully request that HB 4125 not advance.

Sincerely,

A Resident of Marion County, Oregon