

Submitter: Alida Cantor

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4125

I'm an Oregon parent of school-age children. Here in Oregon, our schools are painfully underfunded. My kids deserve a decent public education. And as an average Oregonian, my "kicker" is not enough to make a major difference in my household budget, much less hire tutors for my children.

One reason for this is our backwards and outdated "kicker" policy. The structure of the Kicker right now is destabilizing to the General Fund. Without a stable, growing General Fund, public education will never get a big enough piece of the pie.

The Revenue Forecast Modernization Act, HB 4125, makes budget predictions less high stakes for our children and communities. If economists are "off" on their predictions, this won't necessarily trigger a massive cash payback to the wealthiest among us who need the money least. It would mean Oregon can invest in all Oregonians.

HB 4125 is a good government measure to create more accurate revenue predictions and a more stable state budget.

With all the chaos and budget cuts coming our way from the federal government, it is more important than ever that the state economist can give us more accurate revenue predictions so that we can minimize painful cuts to critical services. I'm calling on all our lawmakers to speak out loudly in favor of this bill and pass it into law. Oregon's General Fund requires a solid foundation, and the current Kicker is a perpetual crack in that foundation. We need a revenue prediction system that ensures investment in our children and our state.