

Submitter:

Courtney Campbell

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4125

Hello,

I'm writing as a SW Portland resident, mother to third and fifth grade students at Ainsworth Elementary School, and family small business owner in Portland. Our family has been in Oregon for generations and we CARE about Oregon, its students, and its economic competitiveness. We support HB 4125 to modernize the kicker!

NOW is the time to effect change and reform Oregon taxes to benefit children and future small businesses like ours. I am sick and tired of the continuous lack of funding for schools, beginning with Measure 5 and then with Measure 50 back in the 1990's. My family and I have continuously advocated for stable education funding sources, including advocating with PAT for the sales tax initiative that failed in 1994. My kids school experience has suffered due to extremely large class sizes (my 5th grader has never had a class under 30+ until this year), insufficient special education support for my 5th grader, and a lack of advanced learning opportunities for my TAG identified 3rd grader. We are continuously failing generations of Oregon children - and simultaneously damaging our business climate by failing to attract talented employees with families to our city due to the failures of our schools. I cannot believe that our state's leaders are willing to continue to accept education outcomes at the very bottom nationally, year after year.

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, or benefit from a stable funding model. The Revenue Forecast Modernization Act or HB 4125 makes budget predictions less high stakes for our children and communities.

I'm calling on you, my lawmakers, to boldly support this bill and pass it into law. As the "Big Beautiful (Ugly) Bill" legislation starts to take effect, Oregon's General Fund will require a solid foundation, and the current Kicker is a perpetual crack in that foundation. Let's have a revenue prediction system that ensures investment in our children and in the future small businesses we hope to welcome and thrive in our state.

Thank you.