

Submitter: Jennifer Prowell
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4125
Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jennifer Prowell. I have been a public school educator for twenty years, and I am also the parent of a child in Oregon's public schools. I am here today because I have seen over and over again how unstable and outdated revenue forecasting harms students, educators, and families.

When revenue forecasts shift suddenly or prove inaccurate, schools are thrown into crisis mode. I have lived through years where districts prepared for cuts with little warning. Teachers lost their jobs. Class sizes grew overnight. Support staff disappeared. Programs that children relied on were reduced or eliminated. These are not minor adjustments—they are deeply disruptive events that ripple through entire school communities.

For educators, this uncertainty is exhausting and demoralizing. For students, it is frightening and destabilizing. And for parents, it is heartbreaking to watch classrooms become more crowded and less supported, not because the need isn't there, but because the system failed to plan responsibly.

Schools cannot turn on a dime. We hire people, build programs, and make commitments to children that span years—not months. Yet outdated forecasting practices force districts to make rushed, reactive decisions that hurt the very students we are sworn to serve.

HB 4125 matters because it acknowledges a hard truth: the way we forecast revenue directly affects children's daily lives. Modernizing these forecasts, increasing transparency, and reducing unnecessary volatility is not just good fiscal policy—it is a moral responsibility.

As both an educator and a parent, I am asking you to act with urgency. Our classrooms cannot absorb another cycle of chaos. Our students cannot afford more instability. HB 4125 gives Oregon a chance to plan better, protect schools, and do right by its children.

I strongly urge you to support HB 4125.

Thank you for listening and for taking this issue seriously.