

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs, and Members of the House Committee on Revenue,

I am writing on behalf of AFT-Oregon. We are a labor federation representing workplace unions across the state in early learning, K-12 schools, and across our state's college and university landscape. Our 28 unions represent over 18,000 essential staff, instructors, faculty, and employees who support our students and advocate for the public good. **AFT-Oregon enthusiastically supports HB 4125 and urges the legislature to pass the bill.**

Oregon's public services, from education to healthcare and beyond, depend on reliable and reasonably predictable revenue. The state economist and revenue forecasters work hard to ensure this happens for the public and the lawmakers who represent them. However, the current model of economic forecasting and revenue predictions is broken. **HB 4125 presents a smart solution to create more accurate predictions and a more stable state budget.**

Our union members are academic faculty, graduate employees, and educators well trained in the scientific method and the widely accepted 5% margin of error. The current 2% margin of error within the constitution which the state economist is bound to be accurate within, months and years into the future, is overly rigid and destabilizes our state budget. Correctly collected revenue is returned and our funds are depleted – funds which could be used to support our student communities.

Amidst chaos at the Federal level and budget uncertainty in the state, **it is more important than ever that our state economist can give accurate predictions to minimize painful cuts.** This is possible if the legislature gives guidance and expectations on how the process works, through HB 4125. If passed, Oregon's legislature will be presented with revenue as a range, and the lower end of the range will be used to budget ongoing services. This is a smart and effective way to budget amidst an ever-changing global economic landscape.

For the good of our students, our communities, and our state, we urge your support of HB 4125 and look forward to its passage.

Sincerely,



Harper Haverkamp, PhD
American Federation of Teachers – Oregon (AFT-Oregon)