

KHANH PHAM
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 23



OREGON STATE SENATE

Good afternoon Chair Bowman, Vice Chairs Elmer and Pham, and members of the committee.

For the record, my name is Senator Khanh Pham, and I am proud to be a chief sponsor of House Bill 4143, the RECOURSE Act.

Everyday I hear from my constituents about the devastating impacts that budget cuts are having on their lives. The level of disinvestment from the federal government is tearing huge holes in programs and vital infrastructure that Oregon depends on - forcing the states to take food from children, take healthcare from the sick, take education away from our young people, take housing away from families and people with disabilities.

This is the context and the urgency behind the RECOURSE Act, a bill that adds a tool to defend our state with the ability to withhold an equal amount of funds from the federal government if federal payments are withheld from the state in violation of a court decision.

Oregonians rely on our tax dollars to come back to us in the form of shared investments that make our lives better, everything from safe roads to public schools and medicaid reimbursements to SNAP benefits. If the federal government is not willing to uphold their contracts with Oregon, contracts that are funded with our tax dollars, and a court rules that this is the case, it is only fair and right that our state should hang on to the balance until the federal government pays out as ordered.

We are in uncertain times and hopefully we'll never get to the point where our federal government ignores a court order, but in this unprecedented time, we need tools to meet the needs of this moment. This is what our constituents are calling on us to do - take action and serve our state.

I urge your support of HB 4143.