

Submitter: Jessica Gillard
On Behalf Of: schools
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4125

Hi, my name is Jessica Gillard. I am a nurse at OHSU, a member of ONA, and a constituent of Kathleen Taylor, Mark Gamba, and Maxine Dexter, and my children are students at da Vinci Arts Middle School and Marysville Elementary. I care about Oregon and its students, and supporting everyone who is working hard but still struggling.

I support HB 4125 to modernize the kicker. Now is the time to effect change and reform Oregon taxes to benefit our children and the future. The kicker disproportionately benefits the wealthy, resulting in large windfalls for those who don't need the help, paid for by the rest of us in the form of underfunded schools and under-resourced safety nets.

I have watched my kids and many others struggle in school without adequate support, as every year more teachers and mental health providers are laid off and class sizes get bigger. Teachers and staff are burnt out and leaving, and I see other parents pulling their kids out of public school when they can.

Currently, there is not enough money to go around. A stable, growing General Fund is a part of the answer.

House Bill 4125 makes budget predictions more reliable, so that if economists are "off" on their predictions, we won't have massive cash paybacks to the wealthiest Oregonians, while our public programs, and thus our communities suffer.

I am asking lawmakers to speak out loudly in favor of this bill and pass it into law. As the federal "Big Beautiful Bill" legislation starts to take effect, Oregon's General Fund needs a strong foundation, and the Kicker is a perpetual crack in that foundation. Let's create a revenue prediction system that ensures investment in our children and our state.

Thank you,

Jessica Gillard