

Submitter: Kate O'Donnell
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4125

Dear Chair Nathanson and Representatives of the House Committee on Revenue,

My name is Kate O'Donnell and I'm the parent of a second grader at Scott Elementary School in Northeast Portland. His school, like so many others across the state, stands to lose school staff positions, programs, and services because of the current state budget situation. Scott School is an incredible community and my son has benefitted so much from being a part of it. It would be devastating to him and his peers to see reductions in social support staff (counselor, social worker) and after school programs (SUN, Growing Gardens) because we can't solve our state's revenue problems.

My family cares about Oregon and its students. This is why we support HB 4125 to modernize the Oregon's kicker. As we face yet another round of devastating budget cuts, NOW is the time to effect change and reform Oregon taxes to benefit children. 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. The Revenue Forecast Modernization Act or HB 4125 makes budget predictions less high stakes for our children and communities.

I'm calling on members of this Committee to speak out boldly 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 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 consistent investment in our children and the future of our state.

Sincerely,
Kate O'Donnell
Portland, OR 97218