



# American Association of University Professors

*Academic Freedom for a Free Society*

February 2, 2026

House Committee on Revenue  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Reschke and Walters, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the more than 3,000 members of the American Association of University Professors in Oregon, our collective bargaining chapters at the University of Oregon, Portland State University, Oregon State University, and Oregon Institute of Technology, and our faculty members in advocacy chapters across Oregon, we urge you to support HB 4125.

Prior to the passage of HR1 (the “Big Beautiful Bill”) in 2025, the budget crisis faced in our state has been a self-created problem caused by the Oregon kicker, which in the past decade has caused our state to return \$11 billion in much-needed revenue that could have been used to fully fund education, healthcare and other needs in our state. If passed, this legislation will have a long lasting positive impact on our state’s finances, ensuring that future emergencies, be they wildfires as in previous year or the one we are currently facing due to the “Big Beautiful Bill,” could be more easily navigated due to the creation of the One-Time Emergencies and Finance Fund.

While opponents of this bill may argue that any reform to the Oregon Kicker will deprive hard-working, low-income Oregonians of funds that they rely on, the reality is that much like our tax system, the kicker is a regressive policy that benefits the wealthy at the cost of the working class. According to the Oregon Center for Public Policy, 62% of the \$11 billion in state revenue returned to Oregonians through the kicker went to the richest 1% of Oregonians. With an average income of about \$1.1 million, these wealthy individuals get a kicker payment of about \$12,856. Meanwhile, the typical Oregonian, who makes about \$39,000, get a kicker worth about \$312. Given this inequitable reality, more Oregonians will benefit from the establishment of a fund to contend with state emergencies than from these funds flowing back into the accounts of the top 1% of earners.

Therefore, we call on you to help our state head off future crises by passing HB 4125. Thank you for your consideration.

Victor Reyes  
Executive Director, AAUP Oregon