

Submitter: James Moss
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4125

I am a constituent (4434 NE Campaign St. 97218), and my child is a student at Vernon K-8 School -- a PPS neighborhood school where we lack teachers, support staff, and admin to fully support and care for the children in this community. We have among the shortest school years in the country. Our middle school lacks teachers with experience in dedicated subject matters because they're teaching multiple classes. We've had to fight tooth and nail to maintain teachers for individual grades rather than combining grades. And we have a cadre of high needs students that are not getting the support they need and are detracting from quality educational time for the rest of the students.

The district -- and the STATE - are falling well short of the needs of Vernon and the entire PPS community. We care about Oregon and its students. We support HB 4125 to modernize the kicker.

Now is the time to effect change and reform Oregon taxes to benefit children. I am sick and tired of the continuous lack of funding for schools, starting with Measure 5 and then with Measure 50.

We are continuously failing generations of Oregon children - and simultaneously damaging our business climate by failing to attract talented employees with families to our city due to the failures of our schools.

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 you, our elected leaders, 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 investment in our children.