

2/2/2026

Testimony in Support of HB 4125-Revenue Forecast Modernization
House Committee on Revenue

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chair Reschke, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Catherine Thomasson, MD. I am strongly in support of House Bill 4125.

We need to use all the dollars available to Oregon to deal with innumerable crises from housing to climate change. The kicker is part of our constitution, and this bill does not detract from that policy.

Rather this bill offers a common-sense approach to revenue forecasting. When there is marked volatility in the size of the General Fund, programs get cut or are limited in scope despite being mandated. It takes 6-12 months for maximal productivity in a new hire. This is lost with cuts and again with re-hires. In the last ten years, the surplus estimates were inflated, and kicker checks were issued yearly. By having more accurate and transparent estimation of revenue, we can have a more stable funding mechanism.

Sixty-six percent of the kicker funding goes to the top 20% of wealthiest Oregonians. By providing a range on the guidelines the kicker can and should be based on the optimistic value.

The other major feature of this bill is to direct the revenue that comes in above the lower range estimate to one time spending so that new programs are not created without assurance that the program can receive ongoing funding. We have programs in place that could use that funding such as installation of heat pumps, special housing projects, or even PERS debt reduction to relieve lower income schools.

Please pass this smart revision of revenue forecasting.