

Submitter: Christina Edwards
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4125

Written Testimony in Opposition to HB 4125

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christina Edwards, and I am a taxpaying citizen of Oregon writing in strong opposition to HB 4125.

The citizens of Oregon voted in favor of the Kicker Refund, and that vote should be respected. The Kicker was intentionally designed as a safeguard to return excess revenue to taxpayers when the state collects more than it projected. HB 4125 attempts to alter the methodology used to prepare revenue estimates, which would directly undermine the purpose of the Kicker and weaken voter intent without asking voters for approval.

Many Oregonians, including myself, depend on every dollar we earn to survive and raise our families. Oregon currently has one of the highest costs of living in the nation. Housing, food, fuel, healthcare, and childcare costs continue to rise, while wages struggle to keep pace. For many families, the Kicker Refund is not extra money. It is necessary money that helps cover basic expenses, pay down debt, or provide a small measure of financial stability.

Rather than restructuring revenue estimates to reduce or eliminate future Kicker refunds, the Legislature should focus on responsible budgeting and better stewardship of taxpayer dollars. Oregonians should not be penalized for the state's failure to accurately forecast revenue or manage funds effectively. Changing the rules after the fact erodes public trust and accountability.

HB 4125 represents another step toward removing voter-approved protections and increasing the financial burden on working families. I strongly oppose any effort to reformulate or weaken the Kicker without a direct vote of the people.

I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 4125 and uphold the will of Oregon voters.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,
Christina M. Edwards
Coos Bay, Oregon