

Submitter: Laura Heit
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4125
To Oregon Elected Officials:

I am a constituent of yours living in SE Portland and my child is a 8th grader at Sunnyside Elementary School in Portland, OR. I am writing today in support of HB 4125 to modernize the Kicker. I am sick of the argument that we need to make hard budget choices that pit marginalized groups against each other. I have worked as a teacher my entire career, and I am tired of the argument that if I want better public education then we have to cut something else that is equally important. The so-called Pie (of financial resources) is not big enough. We need more revenue. Are schools are so underfunded it's criminal. My child's school has no ac, broken disgusting bathrooms, had no drinking water for YEARS, a crumbling building, and a severe shortage of student support.

The Revenue Forecast Modernization Act (HB 4125) is a solid government measure to create more accurate revenue predictions and thus a more stable state budget. We need increased resources - more revenue - in order to fulfill basic and foundational social promises of quality public education, access to housing and food security, and social services and medical care. It will take *more* than passing HB 4125 to generate the necessary revenue, but it is a step in the right direction.

Our entire state budgeting process relies on this revenue forecast but the legislature has never issued guidance or expectations for how the forecasting process should work. The Kicker does not support the greater public good. With all the chaos and budget cuts coming our way from the federal government, it is more important than ever that the state economist can give us more accurate revenue predictions so that we can minimize painful cuts to critical services, including education, housing, and social services.

Somethings gotta change! I'm calling on you, my lawmakers, to speak out in favor of this bill and pass it into law. Oregon's General Fund requires a solid foundation, and the current Kicker is a perpetual crack in that foundation. Please be bold and support this bill in the service of young people and the future Oregon we all need.

Sincerely,
Laura Heit