

Submitter:

Blake Goud

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4125

Hi,

I am a parent of 2 kids in the Portland Public Schools and I support this measure because it is a first step to fixing the kicker. The kicker has drained revenue already collected from state budgets for things that we all care about like education.

The kicker disproportionately benefits wealthy Oregonians and even families like mine near the median income exponentially benefit compared to my neighbors in the Portsmouth Neighborhood, 34% of whom are experiencing poverty.

This is among the highest poverty rates in Portland neighborhoods, and the needs created by the kicker show up in our schools with families needing support from their communities for food, utilities, rent and other basic necessities.

Yet the lack of sufficient state revenue pits the whole range of needs that all of my neighbors depend on against each other.

Education, in real (inflation adjusted terms) does not keep up with expenses especially as districts grapple with Federal cuts and demographic changes with fewer students that increases the per-student costs borne by the State of Oregon which provides the bulk of education funding in places like Portland.

These continued cuts force zero sum advocacy between important priorities at the same time as billions flow out every year, largely for the benefit of wealthy Oregonians.

While the overall revenue system is reformed to become more progressive, this bill provides a good immediate solution to tax cuts fueled by the accuracy of an economists' forecasts 2 years ago.

I studied economics as a student and if I learned anything, I learned that relying on the point estimates of economists is a fool's bargain. Economists forecast with both hands (on the one hand..., on the other hand...) and we should have a revenue system that doesn't rely on a fictional assumption of certainty in economics forecasts. We need one that is well equipped to deliver sufficient revenue for the public services we depend on.