

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4125

I am the parent of a middle school student in PPS, and it never ceases to amaze me how the good people of Oregon can complain endlessly about the state of our public schools (terrible, in case you haven't heard) and yet fail to see that we cannot have good schools if we do not pay for them. The opportunity to modernize the kicker has been staring us in the face for years, and it is time to act. I previously served as a budget analyst in the legislature of another state, and when I moved to Oregon and learned about the kicker...my jaw hit the floor. And yes, my family certainly does benefit from a nice kicker check every year and I am telling you in no uncertain terms - quit giving it to us! I also have volunteered for a tax assistance non profit and I have seen first hand that it is not low income families benefiting from the kicker. But you don't have to take my word for it - "Oregon spent nearly \$11 billion over the past decade on kicker tax rebates, with more than 62 percent of that amount going to the richest fifth of Oregonians, according to the Oregon Center for Public Policy". Honestly the math is embarrassing - though maybe not surprising for a state that does so little to value education. Let's turn that around, shall we? Please pass HB 4125 and reform the kicker.