

Submitter: Kelly McGovern

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4125

I am writing in strong support of HB 4125 (Kicker Reform) because Oregon's current approach to budgeting is leaving families like mine behind—especially when it comes to public education.

My children attend schools in the Portland Public School system, and year after year they are consistently underserved. The number of instructional days is simply not enough to meet students' academic needs. Class sizes are unreasonably large, making it difficult for teachers to provide meaningful support or differentiated instruction.

In addition, my 2nd and 5th graders have both been identified as TAG, yet there are virtually no advanced learning opportunities available to them. Their needs are not being met, and they are not being challenged in ways that allow them to grow. As a parent, it is frustrating to watch my children lose momentum and engagement in a system that should be helping them thrive.

Oregon families are asked to accept less and less from our schools while being told there isn't enough funding or flexibility to make meaningful improvements. Meanwhile, the state continues to issue large kicker refunds instead of using those dollars to stabilize essential services like education.

HB 4125 is a responsible step toward reforming the kicker system so Oregon can better invest in what truly matters—our kids, our classrooms, and our future workforce. Our schools need stability, predictable funding, and the ability to plan long-term. Students deserve adequate instructional time, reasonable class sizes, and access to advanced learning options regardless of zip code.

The Oregon education system is failing too many families, including mine. We can and must do better. I urge you to support HB 4125 and prioritize sustained investment in Oregon's public schools.

Thank you for your time and consideration.