

Submitter:

Deborah Kim

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4125

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice Chairs Reschke and Walters, and members of the House Revenue Committee,

I am an Oregon voter in 97211. I urge you to support HB 4125 and vote to move it forward.

The Revenue Forecast Modernization Act (HB 4125) is a sound government measure to create more accurate revenue predictions and a more stable state budget. We need increased revenue to fulfill basic social promises: quality public education, access to housing and food security, and essential healthcare and social services. Passing HB 4125 alone will not generate all the revenue we need, but it is a critical step in the right direction.

Our public schools are in crisis. Local elementary schools already have 36 fifth graders in a single classroom. Over the past two years, we have endured devastating cuts to staffing and support services, and current projections indicate we will have to cut even more. This is untenable. Our children deserve better, and our teachers cannot continue to do more with less.

At the same time, we are facing massive cuts to social services. Oregonians are being kicked off Medicaid and losing housing vouchers due to federal cuts compounded by state revenue shortfalls. People who depend on disability services, mental health support, and safety net programs are being left behind. We need state revenue to fill these gaps—urgently.

In a time of significant federal cuts, we need state revenue more than ever for: healthcare, education, housing, disability services, climate mitigation, infrastructure, and transportation—including buses, pedestrian infrastructure, and bike infrastructure.

Some will argue that the kicker belongs to taxpayers. But the kicker is calculated as a percentage of tax liability, which means higher-income households receive disproportionately larger refunds while lower-income Oregonians—those who need support the most—receive little or nothing. I would rather see that money invested in services that support children and families who are struggling than returned to those of us who are already doing well.

Taxpayers do not count on the kicker. We have already adjusted to having paid those

taxes, and we will not miss a refund we never expected. What we will miss—what we are already missing—are adequately funded schools, functioning social services, and infrastructure that serves everyone.

I will be paying close attention to which elected officials support HB 4125 as we head into election season. I will not look favorably on officials who refuse to take this step toward responsible revenue policy and investment in our communities.

Please vote yes on HB 4125.

Sincerely,  
Deborah Kim  
Portland, OR 97211