

Testimony in Support of HB 4125

To: Chair Nathanson and the House Revenue Committee

From: Heather Ray, Clackamas ESD Director at Large & OSBA Legislative Policy Committee Representative

Date: February 2026

Chair Nathanson and members of the committee,

My name is Heather Ray. I serve as an ESD Director at Large and as an Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) Legislative Policy Committee member. I'm also writing to you as a mom. My child is one of the thousands of Oregon students feeling the squeeze of chaotic, dwindling education budgets.

I am writing to ask for your support of **HB 4125**.

Parents and school boards are tired of budget surprises. Right now, our schools are facing a massive \$750 million hole. When the state's revenue forecast swings wildly, it isn't just a line on a spreadsheet, it's a pink slip for a teacher or paraeducator in my child's school, or increased class sizes.

HB 4125 fixes this by bringing common sense to the way we count our money:

- **No More Guesswork:** It requires the state to use more conservative math. As a parent, I don't plan my family's budget based on the biggest possible tax refund I might receive. The state shouldn't plan our students' future that way either.
- **Total Transparency:** It mandates easily accessible quarterly updates. School boards and parents shouldn't be the last to know when a budget crisis is coming. We need warning signals to make the best decisions possible when cuts are necessary.
- **Saving for a Rainy Day:** When there's extra money, this bill doesn't give it away while our schools are struggling. It allows for emergencies and provides for one-time uses that help us keep our promises to students, like paying down PERS debt. This would protect our long-term stability so we aren't constantly in crisis mode.

This bill isn't about doing away with the kicker or going against the will of the voters. It's about making sure we don't make promises to our children that we can't keep.

Our students deserve a budget they can rely on. Please support HB 4125 to give our schools the stability they need.

Thank you,

Heather Ray