

Submitter:

Virginia Stocklin-Enright

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4125

The initial "two percent kicker" legislation was approved in a time when there was concern about inflation, economic headwinds, and expanding government spending. The outcome was to work to limit government spending by forcing the return of unexpected surpluses directly to taxpayers, to provide fiscal discipline and prevent "boom-and-bust" budgeting cycles in a state with volatile income tax revenue, and to give taxpayers a direct benefit from over-collections. It was later publicly affirmed with its enshrinement in our Constitution. Oregonians have voted (and will no doubt weigh in again) on the need for fiscal accountability and the issue of an ever-expanding government budget without reflecting improved results, e.g. childhood literacy and numeracy. I oppose raiding the kicker fund, either one-time, or by changing the calculation formula. I oppose any new taxes at this point. We are all entering recession territory - the space in which citizens and legislature meet their responsibilities to cover expenses/provide essential services with currently available funds. Thank you.