

Submitter:

Hilary Waks

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4125

Hello, Chair Nathanson and Co-Vice Chairs Reschke and Walters,

I am a constituent of House District 42 and my children are students at Abernethy Elementary School, our district public school. We care about Oregon and its students. We support HB 4125 to modernize the kicker.

Now is the time to effect change and reform Oregon taxes to benefit children and future small businesses like mine. The continuous lack of funding for schools is extremely disheartening, starting with Measure 5 and then with Measure 50.

We are continuously failing generations of Oregon children - and simultaneously damaging our business climate by failing to attract talented employees with families to our city due to the failures of our schools. My family and I moved here after living in New York, California and Florida. We love Oregon and our life here, but will we be forced to move in the best interest of our children, because they do not have access to the high-achieving schools they deserve? My husband and I come from public schools in California and Florida (Florida!!!) where we participated in high-achieving Talented and Gifted programs, AP classes, etc. and to date, our experience with these at the elementary level has been FAR lacking. (Most educators I have spoken with call Oregon's TAG program, "a joke".) Outside of my personal experience, "educational investments literally pay for themselves through increased tax revenues and reduced social costs," according to Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research. (<https://siepr.stanford.edu/publications/policy-brief/americas-got-talent-case-investing-public-education#:~:text=Government%20return%2Don%2Dinvestment%20calculations,ma king%20them%20truly%20outstanding%20investments.>)

The structure of the Kicker right now is destabilizing to the General Fund. Without a stable, growing General Fund, public education will never get a big enough piece of the pie. The Revenue Forecast Modernization Act or HB 4125 makes budget predictions less high stakes for our children and communities.

I'm calling on you, my lawmaker, to speak out boldly in favor of this bill and pass it into law. As the federal "Big Beautiful Bill" legislation starts to take effect, Oregon's General Fund will require a solid foundation, and the current Kicker is a perpetual crack in that foundation. Let's have a revenue prediction system that ensures investment in our children and in the future small business in our state.

Sincerely,

Hilary Waks