

Submitter: Emma Koehler

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4125

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

My name is Emma Koehler, and I am a constituent in House District 45. I am the parent of a child attending Vestal Elementary School, and I am also a small business owner here in Oregon.

I am writing in support of HB 4125, the Revenue Forecast Modernization Act.

As a parent, I care deeply about the long-term stability of Oregon's public education system. As a small business owner, I also care about a predictable, sustainable state budget and an Oregon that is able to attract and retain families and workers. These interests are deeply connected.

Oregon's current kicker structure makes state budgeting unnecessarily high-stakes and unstable. When surplus revenue is automatically returned rather than incorporated into long-term planning, it limits the state's ability to make sustained investments in essential services, including K–12 public education, which relies heavily on the General Fund.

Without a stable and growing General Fund, schools are left competing for limited resources year after year. This instability affects students, educators, families, and ultimately the broader business climate, as families consider the strength of public schools when deciding where to live and work.

HB 4125 offers a more thoughtful approach to revenue forecasting and budgeting. By modernizing how the kicker is calculated, this bill would help reduce volatility and support more responsible, forward-looking investments in Oregon's children and communities.

At a time when economic uncertainty is increasing and public institutions are under strain, it is especially important that Oregon's revenue system is designed to support long-term stability rather than short-term swings.

I urge you to support HB 4125 and move it forward.

Thank you for your time and for your work on behalf of Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Emma Koehler
House District 45
Parent, Vestal Elementary School
Small Business Owner, Twig & Branch Parenting