

Submitter:

Sally Halderman

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4125

I am writing to support HB 4125 (the Revenue Forecast Modernization Act) to reform the Kicker to better serve our schools and bolster the appeal of our communities to prospective new residents. The current Kicker structure destabilizes the General Fund. Lack of a stable, growing General Fund renders financial support for schools unpredictable and chronically inadequate. This unpredictability and chronic inadequacy persists at a time when our Federal government is laser-focused on unraveling its share of funding for longstanding programs and services that are not only core to the social fabric of our communities, but also provide a critical safety net during emergencies.

Many of us would place a strong school system in the top tier of these essential programs and services. In addition to the inherent importance of schools, we are still addressing the needs of many young learners who continue their struggle to regain ground lost during the pandemic. And increasing class size and other stopgap measures that have been taken to address previous educational budget shortfalls have added to the overall workload and pressure on our teachers, a pillar of any strong school system.

The strength of a local school system is also a key consideration for families and businesses considering relocating to or continuing to operate in an area.

With its potential to increase school funding and shore up its reliability, the Revenue Forecast Modernization Act (HB 4125) strengthens prospects for our learners and teachers, and also for the appeal of our communities.

Thank you for your service to our beautiful state. I hope you will vote in favor of this legislation that many of us consider vital to Oregon's future.

Warmest regards,

Sally Halderman