

Submitter: Kelley Barry

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 in Southeast Portland, a small business owner, and the parent of a child at Creston Elementary School. Like many families in our community, we care deeply about Oregon's future and the well-being of its students. I am writing in strong support of HB 4125 to modernize the Kicker.

For decades, Oregon has struggled to adequately fund public education—beginning with Measure 5 and compounded by Measure 50. As a parent, I see the consequences of these choices every day in our schools. As a business owner, I also see how chronic underinvestment in education hurts our ability to attract and retain talented workers with families who want to put down roots here.

The current structure of the Kicker destabilizes the General Fund and makes long-term planning unnecessarily risky. Without a stable and growing General Fund, public education will never receive the sustained investment it needs to succeed. HB 4125, the Revenue Forecast Modernization Act, would lower the stakes of revenue forecasting and bring greater predictability to budgeting—something our children and communities deserve.

As federal fiscal changes begin to take effect, Oregon's General Fund needs a solid, reliable foundation. The current Kicker is a perpetual crack in that foundation. We can—and should—build a revenue system that prioritizes investment in our children and supports the future of small businesses across the state.

I urge you, as my lawmakers, to speak out boldly in favor of HB 4125 and help move it forward into law.

Thank you for your leadership and for considering the voices of families like mine.

Sincerely,  
Kelley Barry