

Submitter:

Sarah Nelson

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 Sarah Nelson. I am a licensed psychologist and the owner of Rose and Fern Counseling, I am also a parent with two children in Portland Public Schools and a graduate of the Portland Public Schools system. I am writing to express my strong support for HB 4125, the Revenue Forecast Modernization Act.

In my work as a mental health professional and as a parent, I see daily how the stability of public systems shapes the well being of individuals, families, and communities. Oregon's public mental health infrastructure, including school based services, community clinics, and prevention programs, relies on consistent and dependable public funding. When state revenue fluctuates significantly from one biennium to the next, the consequences include service disruptions, workforce instability, and reduced access to care for those with the greatest need.

Oregon's current kicker structure makes long term planning unnecessarily difficult. Automatically returning surplus revenue instead of integrating it into sustained budgeting limits the state's capacity to invest in foundational systems that support mental health, including education, public health, and community based behavioral health services. These systems are closely interconnected, and instability in one area has cascading effects across the others.

From both a public mental health and small business perspective, predictable and responsible budgeting is essential. Providers, educators, and families benefit from a state that is able to make deliberate, forward looking investments rather than responding reactively to short term revenue shifts. HB 4125 represents an important step toward reducing volatility and supporting a more stable General Fund that can better address Oregon's long term needs.

At a time when demand for mental health services continues to rise and economic uncertainty places added strain on families and institutions, it is critical that Oregon's revenue system promotes stability, prevention, and resilience.

I respectfully urge you to support HB 4125 and advance this legislation.

Thank you for your time and for your service to Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Sarah C. Nelson, Ph.D.  
Licensed Psychologist  
Rose and Fern Counseling