

Submitter: Thomas OMalley  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Revenue  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4125

Hello,

I am a parent of with a child at Ceaser Chavez K-8 in Portland Public Schools and I support this measure because it is a first step to fixing the kicker. The kicker has drained revenue already collected from state budgets for things that we all care about like education. The kicker disproportionately benefits wealthy Oregonians and neighborhoods like mine suffer greatly. We live in the Portsmouth Neighborhood with 34% of residents are experiencing poverty.

This is among the highest poverty rates in Portland neighborhoods, and the needs created by the kicker show up in our schools with families needing support from their communities for food, utilities, rent and other basic necessities.

Yet the lack of sufficient state revenue pits the whole range of needs that all of my neighbors depend on against each other. Education, in real (inflation adjusted terms) does not keep up with expenses especially as districts grapple with Federal cuts and demographic changes with fewer students that increases the per-student costs borne by the State of Oregon which provides the bulk of education funding in places like Portland. These continued cuts force zero sum advocacy between important priorities at the same time as billions flow out every year, largely for the benefit of wealthy Oregonians.

While the overall revenue system is reformed to become more progressive, this bill provides a good immediate solution to tax cuts fueled by the accuracy of an economists' forecasts 2 years ago.

Sincerely,  
Thomas O'Malley