

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice Chairs Reschke and Walters, and members of the House Revenue Committee,

I am an Oregon voter residing in Multnomah County. I am a member of the local SEIU union and have a Master of Social Work. I urge you to support HB 4125 to modernize the Kicker. Please vote to move it forward!

The Revenue Forecast Modernization Act (HB 4125) is a solid government measure to create more accurate revenue predictions and thus a more stable state budget. We need increased resources

- more revenue - in order to fulfill basic and foundational social promises of quality public education, access to housing and food security, and social services and medical care. It will take more than passing HB 4125 to generate the necessary revenue, but it is a step in the right direction.

- I will be paying close attention to the elected officials who support HB 4125 for election season. I will not look favorably on officials who do not support this step in the right direction
- Taxpayers don't count on the kicker, they've already paid the kicker, and the kicker is not a meaningful or predictable addition to their incomes.
- PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE SO SCREWED BEYOND SCREWED. KIDS, EDUCATORS, AND FAMILIES ARE SUFFERING IMMENSELY AS A RESULT. WE ALREADY CUT A PSYCHOTIC AMOUNT OF STAFFING AND SUPPORT OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS AND CURRENT PROJECTIONS ARE LOOKING LIKE WE WILL HAVE TO CUT MORE.
- IN SOME SCHOOLS, WE ALREADY HAVE 36 FIFTH GRADERS PER CLASS. WHAT THE HECK DO YOU MEAN THAT WE HAVE TO CUT MORE.
- Huge cuts to social services — people's incomes have not meaningfully increased (or increased at all, in many cases), but austerity measures mean that people are being kicked off EBT, OHP Medicaid, and housing vouchers due to federal cuts and state shortfalls. We need revenue BADLY.
- It's NEGLIGENT not to develop other revenue streams with all of the federal cuts.
- In a time of huge federal cuts, we need state revenue for: healthcare, education, housing, disability services, climate mitigation, infrastructure, transportation - including buses, walking, and bikes.

Thank you for taking time out of your day to read my testimony, I really appreciate it. I care very deeply for Oregon public schools especially; now more than ever we need to support the education of our youth to ensure a safe and sustainable future for Oregon and for our planet.

Take care,
Leah Howard