

Submitter: Ariana Jacob
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4125

Dear Members of the House Committee On Revenue,

I am writing in strong support of HB 4125. The way that the kicker has been calculated has been inaccurate way more often than it has correct, which has resulted in billions of dollars of lost funding that Oregonians are suffering from unnecessarily. This bill will improve the way the state calculates budget projections so that we stop losing money we desperately need for our schools, healthcare and other essential public services.

I am part-time faculty at Portland State and I am deeply concerned about the future of public higher ed in our state in this political moment because due to funding cuts we are facing over 600 job cuts at our public universities and between 7-10% tuition increases for our colleges and universities. This will be devastating to our students and result in shortages in qualified workers for the future of the Oregon economy. Public higher education in our state cannot keep being told we need to tighten our belts a little more. We are reaching a breaking point where even the Higher Education Coordinating Commission is talking about the regional universities not being able to sustain themselves independently in the near future.

We cannot keep using a misguided and inaccurate kicker calculation to rob our state of money we desperately need. Please pass this bill to help make sure we have the money we need to take care of Oregon's working families now and going forward.

With gratitude,
Ariana Jacob