

Submitter: Margaret Henry
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4143
Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Elmer and Pham, and members of the Committee,
I am writing today to voice my strong support for HB 4143.

This bill is a common-sense measure to protect Oregon's taxpayers and essential state services. Currently, when the federal government is found by a court to be unlawfully withholding funds from our state—funds that Oregonians rely on for healthcare, infrastructure, and education—Oregon has limited immediate recourse to balance the scales.

HB 4143 provides a responsible mechanism to ensure that Oregon is not left in a financial lurch. By allowing the state to withhold "qualified payments" (excluding payroll taxes) and placing them into a Federal Moneys Holding Account, we ensure that:

The State Budget Remains Stable: We can offset unlawful federal withholding to prevent sudden cuts to local programs.

Fiscal Accountability is Maintained: The funds aren't "lost"; they are held securely until the legal dispute is resolved.

State Employees are Protected: The bill rightly indemnifies our state workers who are simply carrying out this fiscal policy.

It is only fair that if the federal government is legally required to pay Oregon and refuses to do so, Oregon should have the right to pause its own outgoing payments. This bill creates a "check and balance" that is long overdue.

I urge the committee to move HB 4143 forward with a "Do Pass" recommendation. Thank you for your time and for your service to the people of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Margaret Henry