

Submitter:

Morgan Caldwell

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4125

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

I am an Oregon voter. I was born and raised in Oregon, have lived here my whole life, and now work in public education in various cities around our state. I want to 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.

- This kicker undeniably favors the wealthier and, as is, subsequently takes away opportunities for the funds to go to those who need it most.

- 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! I have seen this first hand in districts all around our state and the direct effects of a lack of funding is having on our students and their long term outcomes is frankly frightening.

- In most schools, classes are already above 30 students. This is not conducive to learning for anyone! We can't let these numbers keep rising!!

- Teachers are losing their jobs mid year and entire schools are having to reset everything to adjust. This takes time away from learning and causes additional stress to our students who are already experiencing exceptionally high levels of unrest at this time.

- 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 BAD

-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.