

Submitter: Tom Hope

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4125

Oregon taxpayers, the people who PAY FOR the government, voted the kicker into law. Now you want to chop it down so you can burn through even more.

The 2001-2003 biennium budget was \$34 Billion. You spent 32% of it on education and 25% of it on "Human Services" (handouts). The 2025-2027 budget is 4 times higher: \$140 Billion. And now only 18% is spent on education, but you spend 45% on handouts. Our schools rank near the bottom nationally. Your priorities are clear.

This is not an argument to burn the safety net. There is a big difference between helping someone through hard times and inviting people to depend on us forever. Most other state governments know that. Oregon spends \$16,280 per person per year. Similar size states have lower per-person spending, lower education costs and better schools. Colorado spends \$7267 per resident per year. Iowa spends \$3374 per person per year. Both states' students rank higher nationally. Oregon spent \$60,000 per homeless person last year. Homelessness has only increased. Someone is getting that money, but I don't see it helping street life in Portland.

You spend more than other states, but we get less for our money.

This is not a problem you can blame on the minority party. They have held no power in Oregon since 2007. You can't blame it on federal government, because we have had all combinations of partisan rule at the federal level. This is Oregon's spending problem. More spending, more taxes, and now we are losing employers and productive workers for greener pastures.

Cut your spending, not our kicker.