

Submitter: Stephanie Engelsman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4125

I am a constituent of SE Portland (Rep. Nosse), a parent to three children in Portland Public Schools (Abernethy Elementary and Hosford Middle), and am elected to the PPS Board of Education (representing Zone 6). We are about Oregon and its students. I support HB 4125 to modernize the kicker.

Now is the time to effect change and reform Oregon taxes to benefit children and future small businesses. I remain dismayed at Oregon's continuous lack of funding for schools, starting with Measures 5 and 50 and this ridiculous kicker. It is no surprise to me that Oregon and Oregon alone has a kicker; no other state has followed suit in this disastrous idea.

I often explain it to people like this: I'm sorry that your kids had two giant growth spurts and that your new car needed new tires unexpectedly. Two years ago, when you were budgeting for your family, you only budgeted for one giant growth spurt and no new tires. I'm sorry your kids needed two sets of new shoes instead of the budgeted one, and that someone slashed your tires so you need new ones. But you didn't budget for that so now you must give the remainder of your paycheck back to your employer. Oh, you can't afford to keep the lights on and also eat dinner every night? Too bad, you didn't forecast well.

That's ridiculous.

Oregon is continuously failing generations of Oregon children - and simultaneously damaging our business climate by failing to attract talented employees with families to our city due to the failure of our schools.

The structure of the kicker right now is destabilizing to the general fund. Without a stable, growing general fund, public education will never get a big enough piece of the pie. The Revenue Forecast Modernization Act, aka HB 4125, makes budget predictions less high stakes for our children and communities.

I'm calling on you, my lawmaker, to speak out boldly in favor of this bill and pass it into law. As the federal "Big Beautiful Bill" legislation starts to take effect, Oregon's general fund will require a solid foundation and a current kicker is a perpetual crack in that foundation. Let's have a revenue prediction system that ensures investment in our children and in our future small businesses in our state.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Engelsman