

Submitter: Scott Lambert
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 a Eugene voter and physics PhD candidate at the University of Oregon. I 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 desperately need increased resources - more revenue - in order to fulfill the basic needs 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.

While biking around Eugene I often pass people who are unhoused. I've spoke with people with grievous injuries and debilitating illnesses. A woman with a leg injury, in tears in my apartment parking lot, who was trying to walk to a former partner's house, not knowing if he would even help. A man sleeping under a bridge with a broken wrist who would not accept my offer of a blanket because he couldn't carry it, despite the freezing nighttime temperatures. A sixty-year-old woman lying near a dumpster, crying for help, with enormous sores covering her legs.

I am writing these descriptions because I want you to viscerally understand and feel, like I have felt, the dire necessity for more state services. Sometimes I will do small things, like bring someone some food. That cannot solve their problems. With increased revenue for state services, you can solve their problems. It is unconscionable that the state could give back billions of dollars of revenue through the kicker when its services are already so inadequate. I can't see how people in the street will receive their kicker funds, but I don't doubt that Phil Knight, Tim Boyle, and other billionaires will get more than their fair share.

Please do the right thing and reform the kicker.

Sincerely,

Scott Lambert