

Submitter: Maria Vidas

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1507

Co-Chairs and members of the committee,

I love teaching, even in our ever changing the relationships and learning I can foster with my students, especially the joy and honor of being a Dual Immersion teacher teaching in Spanish all day is is fulfilling and meaningful. I look forward to every day with my students and to the years long connections I make with families. However every year around this time of year our days fill with dread and rumor; which positions and which programs are slated to be cut? Which ways are we going to have to save more? How can we manage with less when scarcity already exists, as our AVID site coordinator at our school I manage distribution of school supplies to students and I have had to fund raise constantly just to make sure we had one pencil for every student and enough paper for all. How can we manage with less we already don't have enough? Just this Monday our Dual Immersion program coordinator told me that I should be prepared to teach classes of 45 6th graders next year as our program will expand but leaders don't know if they'll have the money to fund a new position to teach the 90 incoming 6th graders. I couldn't believe her suggestion, to which she replied "my principal did it to me, I teach close to 50 kids in a 9th-10th blended class". We expect the worst from our leaders since that is all we have been given. The choice to invest in education should be simple. If Oregon lawmakers want to see Oregonian students thrive and succeed they need to invest in Education.

Oregon families are paying more to put food on the table, heat their home, see a care provider when they're sick, and more. To make matters worse, new tax breaks passed by D.C. politicians just months ago are enriching billionaires at the expense of everyday people.

Balancing Oregon's budget solely on the backs of working families by cutting critical services is simply wrong. Working families here in Oregon are counting on you to make a different choice.

As our voice in Salem, we are counting on you to close tax loopholes and reject some of the most egregious and costly tax breaks for corporations and the wealthy:

1. Bonus Depreciation: A flawed tax break for wealthy corporations which threatens to rob \$641 million from schools, public safety, and critical services over the next three biennia.

2. FDDEI: Foreign-Derived Deduction Eligible Income (FDDEI), formerly known as

FDII: a tax break that rewards corporations for generating income overseas but creates a \$135 million budget gap each biennium.

3. GILTI: The Net CFC Tested Income, formerly the Global Intangible Low-Taxed Income (GILTI), allows corporations to exclude up to 80% of their profits related to overseas activities. We can avoid \$245 million in cuts each biennium simply by shrinking this tax loophole.

4. QSBS: The Qualified Small Business Stock (QSBS) exclusion allows venture capital firms to avoid paying taxes on all or part of their profits from selling certain stocks. 94% of the tax benefits from QSBS go to households with over \$1 million in annual income.

5. “Opportunity” Zone Tax Breaks: This tax break lets investors reduce taxes on capital gains by using those gains to buy property and other assets located in specific designated areas, including places thousands of miles away from Oregon.

Billionaires and wealthy corporations spent millions lobbying D.C. politicians to pass many of these tax breaks... and more. Those politicians made the wrong choice.

The decision before you and your colleagues this session should be clear: Prioritize protecting Oregon families, not further enriching the ultra-wealthy.

Thank you,
Maria Vidas