

Submitter: Jeff Schroeder
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1507

Co-Chairs and members of the committee,

As a parent of two middle-school children and as a higher ed worker and union member, it is devastating to witness the chronic underfunding of public education in our state. From K-12 through community colleges, regional universities, and state universities, our schools are all currently underfunded, understaffed, and facing impossible decisions about what critical programs to cut. This problem of education funding has now been severely compounded by cuts to federal funding for health care. Given this dire situation, it would be UNCONSCIONABLE to allow H.R.1 to further reduce sorely needed state revenue. I call on all Oregon legislators to vote yes on SB 1507, and then to do even more to preserve revenues and protect critical public services.

As our voice in Salem, we are counting on you to reject some of the most egregious and costly tax breaks for corporations and the wealthy and prevent cuts to public safety, schools, childcare, and other critical services. That begins with voting yes on SB 1507.

SB 1507 helps recoup \$311.6 million in funding for programs Oregonians care about by “disconnecting” Oregon from automatically mirroring some of the most costly tax loopholes in H.R. 1, the disastrous budget bill signed by President Trump.

To be clear, there is more work to do beyond SB 1507. There is still a larger budget gap to close, and balancing the budget by slashing programs Oregonians rely on is the wrong approach. But one thing is certain: passing SB 1507 is a critical first step in addressing the budget crisis created by H.R. 1.

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

Please vote YES on SB 1507.

Thank you.