

Submitter: Lee Lawrence
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1507

Written Testimony in Opposition to SB 1507

House Committee on Revenue

February 18, 2026

As a 41 year old Registered Nurse who has worked hard my whole life and continues to face escalating tax burdens without reprieve, I am providing testimony today in opposition of SB 1507. I strongly encourage congress to vote no, go back to the drafting table, apply standards that are truly EQUITABLE- and not just pass a bill for a half truth headline in effort to coerce the public into thinking that congress is giving the “highest EITC tax break” to save face. The numbers do not lie, and the margins that this will benefit is incredibly slim and selective at that.

I have served my Oregon neighbors for half of my life as a dedicated bedside caregiver before, during, and after the COVID crisis. I was once proclaimed to be and “essential backbone of the community”, that carried us through a health and economy crisis- but many policies- especially TAX policies leave Oregonians like me behind. I have to wonder if there is language within this bill with specific intention to “close the gap” on the middle class like me who carry this state.

Am I also considered to be worthy of support in the way of tax breaks? Or am I here to serve as the purse to be taken from to bridge the elephant in the room that is state government over-expenditure?

It is duly noted that the language of this bill is alien - and does not support equality for citizen taxpayers nor does it create opportunity for an increased quality of life for so many struggling Americans.

Every day that passes in this legislative session, we are dealt another blow by yet another TAX allocation. Oregonian citizens have been giving all we can to support the welfare of our neighbors, all while living in a tent city that is an enabled protected class. We dutifully pay the state our hard earned wages, and then turn around to clean up the result of the failed city policies in the hospital setting. Residents of Multnomah county have the second highest income tax next to NYC, and the fifth highest property tax in the nation, all while living in a state that ranks number 35 and provides some of the lowest education standards for the youth.

We won't be able to afford a drive to Crater Lake or even float the river anymore on our few sunny days off without paying for it. Soon it will be oxygen that we will be taxed for once a policy drops that declares it as “nature's capital”. Maybe directly cutting us out from tax breaks is the big plan. Maybe you want to drive us out of the homes we have worked so hard to build for ourselves doing the dirty work for the

community so the state can direct funded non profit groups to purchase the real estate for additional Medicaid billable “low income housing” operations across the city- which are poorly managed, and only available to people who meet a strict set of rules that define what “diversity” means to the lawmakers.

Vote No to SB 1507. Support all of your neighbors, not just one small group of people. Rewrite this bill with consideration of the working class while considering the effect that driving job creators out of the state will cause. The poor communities will be affected first when they lose access to essential food sources and job opportunities from the impending closures that business hostile tax policies creates. Unscrupulous tax policies that ignore the middle class, hard working Oregonian first responders will result in mass migration out of the state— and drive down the quality of healthcare. Does that piece of this scenario play into the sphere of the captured data that drives support for the “healthier Oregon” policy? Or maybe it’s a beneficial trade off because driving us out with unfriendly policy will result in more real estate up for grabs to be used for Medicaid billable “affordable housing”.

Vote no. Be creative and responsible with our tax dollars. Help all Oregonians. Do better.

Lee Lawrence RN CEN BSN
Multnomah County