

Submitter: Leslie Robinette
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1507

Co-Chairs and members of the committee,

As a career-long educator I have watched multiple downturns in funding for K-12 education. The budget gaps created resulted in painful cuts to staffing and programs that impacted students through elimination of courses, programs, supports, school days, and steep class size increases. At the same time these cuts were happening, there were decades when Oregon businesses had the lowest business tax in the nation. It's not fair that business profiteers get tax breaks and loopholes while Oregon's future -- our children -- face school funding cuts that limit their ability to achieve to their highest potential. Such a system widens the income gap between the haves and have-nots. This must end now.

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.