

Submitter: Jacob Tootalian
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1507
To: House Revenue Committee
Date: 2/16/26
From: Jacob Tootalian
Re: Support for SB 1507

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Walters and Reschke, and members of the committee....

Essential state and federal services that millions of Oregonians rely on are at risk of severe funding cuts due to H.R. 1 and the Trump Administration's agenda. While Oregon faces the loss of billions in federal funds, the wealthiest earners and out-of-state corporations stand to gain massive tax breaks. This is unacceptable for our state and its people.

If we do not decouple from these federal tax codes, Oregon will be forced to make devastating cuts to essential services that millions rely on. Without action, the impacts will be severe: Employment-Related Day Care will run out of money by January 2027 unless the current legislature fills its \$88 million shortfall; food banks will be overwhelmed as federal SNAP funds are withdrawn, leaving critical gaps in food security; hundreds of thousands of Oregonians stand to lose health care coverage due to the largest funding cut in Medicaid/Oregon Health Plan history. These are just a few examples of what's at risk if we remain bound to a federal system that prioritizes tax breaks for the wealthy over the well-being of our communities.

I'm an adjunct instructor at Portland State University. Decade after decade, educators at both the K-12 and higher ed. levels have been forced to make due with less and less. Administrators and their lawyers at my institution have used the threat of even more drastic budget cuts to make things even worse for us—unlawfully withholding hardship funds from our most vulnerable colleagues, many of whom are already struggling with housing and food insecurity because of the instability of adjunct labor. We're on the verge of a disaster both for faculty and staff and for the students that we desperately want to serve. Making the fiscally responsible choice to uncouple the tax code from the Trump agenda would be a positive first step toward a new approach to education and other human services in Oregon.

Thank you,
Jacob Tootalian