

Submitter: Evan Tait
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1507
To: House Revenue Committee
Date: 2/16/26
From: Evan Tait

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the current legislature fills its \$88 million shortfall; food banks will be overwhelmed as federal SNAP funds are withdrawn, leaving critical gaps in food security; hundreds of thousands of Oregonians stand to lose health care coverage due to the largest funding cut in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 am an educator in the Beaverton, Oregon area. I teach theater arts, which as we all know with budget cuts, means that the arts are the first on the chopping block. I have seen the power and the importance of a comprehensive arts education for all grades, and it's imperative that we continue to use the funding that Oregon students and their access to equitable, diverse, and inclusive education practices. These budget cuts will impact educators because we will have to work twice as hard with less funding, when we're already tasked with making magic out of glue sticks and determination. What scares me the most about Trump's tax agenda is the direct impact on at-risk youth, which benefit from education and after school programs. Cutting education so severely puts those students that need things like an after school theater program, or sports, or a club, what have you, in jeopardy. It puts their livelihood, their mental health, and their motivation to attend school in direct danger. How can we encourage students to stay in school and do their best when the things they want to do their best in and stay at school for are brutally slashed in favor of mega corporations, who even if they had their budgets cut, would still survive? Oregon ranked 41st in the nation for

our public education, and that's a direct result of not supporting funding for education and for the students. We cannot teach students how to belong, how to believe, and how to achieve if there is not any funding or support for belonging, belief, and achievement.

Thank you,
Evan Tait
Beaverton