



**OREGON STATE SENATE**

**Senate Committee on Judiciary | February 23, 2026**

Good afternoon Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee.

Every day I hear from constituents about the destabilizing impacts of federal budget cuts. When funding is disrupted, it doesn't just trim a line item — it fractures entire systems. It removes stability. It interrupts the flow of services. It chokes off the flow of resources that communities depend on to survive and plan for the future.

Federal disinvestment tears holes in the infrastructure Oregon relies on — from Medicaid reimbursements to SNAP benefits, from school funding to housing assistance. When those dollars are withheld or delayed, it means food doesn't reach children on time, health care providers don't get reimbursed, housing providers can't close financing, and local governments are left scrambling. The damage compounds quickly. Programs stall. Staff are laid off. Trust erodes.

That is the urgency behind the RECOURSE Act.

This bill gives Oregon a defensive tool: if the federal government unlawfully withholds funds in violation of a court order, our state has the authority to withhold an equal amount until those payments are restored. This is not about escalation. It is about preserving stability and protecting Oregonians from the cascading harm that comes when legally obligated funds are interrupted.

Oregonians pay federal taxes with the expectation that those dollars return to our communities in the form of shared investments — safe roads, public schools, Medicaid, SNAP, disaster recovery, and more. If a court determines those funds must be paid and the federal government refuses, Oregon should not be forced to absorb the shock alone.

In uncertain times, stability itself becomes a form of protection. HB 4143 ensures we have a lawful, measured tool to defend the continuity of services and the well-being of our communities.

I urge your support.