

Submitter: Emily OMalley
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Human Services
Measure: HB4079

Oppose vehemently. This just a 'sales tax' under the guise of a 'luxury tax'. It creates an incentive for current (and future) pregnant individuals who are already on state and/or federal assistance to continue the poverty cycle by encouraging them to remain pregnant for an additional \$750 per month. This 'tax' also forces the individual taxpayers to foot the entire bill when commercial entities are not subject to being taxed on the egregious amount spent on items that they would ultimately be capable of writing off as 'business expenses'. This is not to say that I oppose granting former foster children a stipend for a certain amount of time (of which I am not seeing a time limit to be established, worrisome and outrageously irresponsible), as there are far too few opportunities for these aging-out children to get them onto their feet.

In Summary - OPPOSE.

- Current (and future) pregnant women who are already receiving state and/or federal assistance should not be incentivized to remain so for an additional \$750 per month.
- Luxury taxes are simply sales taxes, which has historically proven to be a slippery slope, and Oregonians have repeatedly rejected every attempt to institute them in any form.
- Individual taxpayers should not be the only ones to fund such endeavors (of which should be limited to aging-out foster children for a specified time frame), commercial entities are just as responsible for the wellbeing of the clients that will ultimately either work for or purchase from them.
- To name this as the 'Oregon Freedom Pilot Program' is misleading at best, slapping a 'feel-good' title onto this endeavor is a pathetic attempt to distract from the fact that this is indeed a 'sales tax'.

Sincerely,
Someone Who Wouldn't Even Be Paying This Tax But Finds It Ridiculous