

Submitter: Jen Keller

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure: SJR26

I strongly encourage you to preserve Oregonians' rights to receiving surplus tax revenue that we have paid to the state. This bill is not in the interest of Oregon citizens, many of whom are being forced to make ends meet with higher costs of living due to inflation and other financial setbacks in the past two years.

Many of us are at our wits' end with how our tax dollars are being managed, with the state showing very little progress in managing our homeless, drug and mental health crises. Those of us who live in Multnomah County and are "high income earners", forced to pay 1% of our income to support homeless services, are already seeing our tax dollars not being used. Through the last half of 2022, the Joint Office of Homeless Services reported spending just under \$22 million of its allocation from the Metro measure, which was less than half the amount that was budgeted to spend, and less than 20% of the Metro dollars it's expecting to spend over the course of the fiscal year. Having additional unused tax dollars not returned to us is incredibly frustrating as we are all having to make do with less given the increased costs of basically everything.

I am in favor of paying taxes when I can see the impact. I am not in favor of paying taxes when they are not making a visible impact towards their intended use. I am also not in favor of paying extra taxes and not getting my money back. Please do the right thing and return our hard-earned money from surplus tax revenue.