

Submitter: Michael Goodman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure: SB502

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed elimination of the Oregon Kicker Rebate program. As a concerned resident and taxpayer of Oregon, I firmly believe that this rebate plays a crucial role in promoting fiscal responsibility, providing necessary relief to hardworking individuals and families, and ensuring accountability in government spending.

The Oregon Kicker Rebate has been a fundamental part of our state's tax policy since its inception in 1979. This program was designed to return excess revenues to taxpayers when the state's revenue exceeds expectations by a certain threshold. By giving back these surplus funds, the Kicker Rebate serves as a vital mechanism to prevent government overreach and ensure that taxpayers directly benefit from the state's economic growth.

One of the primary reasons I advocate for the retention of the Oregon Kicker Rebate is its positive impact on individuals and families. The rebate provides a tangible financial boost to Oregonians who often struggle to make ends meet due to rising costs of living, education expenses, and healthcare bills. For many, the Kicker Rebate represents an opportunity to pay down debts, invest in their children's education, make necessary home repairs, or simply bolster their savings. Eliminating this program would deprive Oregonians of these much-needed resources and hinder their ability to achieve financial stability.

Furthermore, the Oregon Kicker Rebate serves as a powerful check on government spending. It ensures that lawmakers and policymakers remain accountable for their fiscal decisions. By returning excess revenue to taxpayers, the rebate encourages responsible budgeting and discourages unnecessary spending. It acts as a deterrent against wasteful practices and urges our elected officials to prioritize essential services, infrastructure improvements, and investments that benefit the entire state.

Critics argue that eliminating the Oregon Kicker Rebate would allow the state to allocate the funds toward vital programs and services. While I acknowledge the importance of adequately funding crucial initiatives, I firmly believe that there are alternative avenues for generating revenue without burdening the hardworking taxpayers of Oregon. Exploring innovative solutions, such as identifying areas of government inefficiencies or increasing taxes on high-income earners, can help bridge any budgetary gaps while preserving the integrity of the Kicker Rebate program.

In conclusion, I implore you to reconsider any proposals that seek to eliminate the Oregon Kicker Rebate. This program has consistently demonstrated its value in promoting fiscal responsibility, providing relief to taxpayers, and ensuring government accountability. By retaining the Oregon Kicker Rebate, we uphold the principles of fairness, empower individuals and families, and create a more prosperous future for all Oregonians.

Thank you for considering my views on this matter. I urge you to take them into account as you make decisions that impact the well-being of our great state. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information or have any questions regarding my testimony.