

Oppose SB 125, SB 382, SB 707

Exemptions to Corporate Activity Tax



Chair Meek, Vice-Chair McLane, Members of the Committee,

Oregon PTA urges funding for crucial services for our children and youth to be preserved.

Oregon PTA urges you to reject SB 125, SB 382, and SB 707, as these bills would reduce revenue from the Corporate Activity Tax (CAT) and jeopardize the funding that supports vital programs for Oregon's students.

Please Vote No on SB 125, SB 382, and SB 707.

Since its passing in 2019, the Corporate Activity Tax (CAT) has created and sustained programs that have helped students succeed. Early data shows progress¹ and the Student Success Act (SSA) is described as a "model for effective, accountable education funding".²

The long road to the creation of the CAT and Student Success Act should not be undone.

In 2019, Oregon PTA volunteers joined community members in town halls and hearings led by the bipartisan committee on student success. Hundreds testified, contributing to the development of the Student Success Act and the Corporate Activity Tax. Through visits to 77 schools and 29 communities, the committee gathered critical insights, paving the way for this balanced and impactful funding model.

Additional funding to improve student outcomes still needed - especially for students with disabilities.

¹ <https://www.betteroregon.org/ssa>

²

<https://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/2024/12/opinion-student-success-act-offers-state-a-model-for-effective-accountable-education-funding.html>

Recent reports from the American Institutes of Research (AIR)³ and the Quality Education Committee (QEC)⁴, reveal significant underfunding of Oregon's education system, including a \$700 million gap for students with disabilities.⁵ The state has a constitutional duty to adequately fund schools, and the Corporate Activity Tax (CAT) has been critical in directing investments to address these urgent needs.

Uncertainty of funding for education and other critical state services argues for preserving CAT

Our students have great potential, but meeting their needs requires sustained investment in programs proven to improve outcomes, as highlighted in the AIR report. Should federal education support decrease or disappear, the state must be prepared to ensure quality education with its own resources.

Cuts to CAT Revenue Will Harm Students and Jeopardize Oregon's Future

We call on this committee to protect the critical investments made possible by the CAT. Please vote no on SB 125, SB 382, and SB 707 to ensure our schools and students receive the resources they need to succeed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Robin Roemer
Vice President for Legislation, Oregon PTA

Oregon PTA represents thousands of parents, family members, and educators from all across the state. For over 125 years, the well-being and success of Oregon's children and youth has been at the center of our mission and every day, our many members volunteer and advocate to improve outcomes for our students.

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<https://www.oregonlive.com/education/2025/02/to-fix-what-ails-oregon-schools-spend-a-lot-more-money-new-report-suggests.html>

⁴

<https://www.oregon.gov/ode/reports-and-data/taskcomm/Documents/M000266%20DOE%20Quality%20Education%20Model%20Executive%20Summary%202024.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.opb.org/article/2025/02/24/why-eliminate-oregon-special-ed-funding-cap/>