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On Behalf Of: COMMON SENSE PART 1
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3755

The following is my response to the revenue meeting held Tuesday,

ONLINE TESTIMONY

Overwhelming support for HB3755 is apparent, with 98% of respondents in favor. These are constituents from all over Oregon. It's the same basic story, over and over again, but from every corner of the state. They are desperate and begging for property tax relief because they can't make ends meet; property taxes escalate faster than cost of living adjustments.

This is also a non-partisan issue, affecting all seniors. How will they vote in the next election when they find out how their representative voted on this bill? Believe me, they will want to find out.

Revenue Committee members should read every single comment; as should all Oregon Department of Revenue members. They are from our grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, cousins, neighbors—and eventually from all citizens. We are, or will be, in the same boat, paddling upstream, without paddles.

PERCEIVED DECREASED FUNDING OF SCHOOLS AND SERVICES FROM REDUCED PROPERTY TAX

As per the Legislative Policy and Research Office (LPRO):

The legislature provides state funding for K-12 education from three main sources: (1) the General Fund, primarily income taxes; (2) lottery receipts; and (3) the Fund for Student Success, with revenue from the Corporate Activities Tax. Money from these three sources goes into the State School Fund (SSF), while additional money from the Corporate Activities Tax is distributed in the form of grants to school districts for specific purposes.

Notice, LPRO's own language says, "primarily income taxes", and doesn't mention property taxes. We all know, from our property tax statement, a portion of property taxes funds schools. But apparently it wasn't a significant percentage to be listed or mentioned. Note that Lottery receipts are the second most contributor. Other sources are federal funding, bonds, and measures.

A chief argument against this measure is that it will take funds away from basic services: Police, Fire, and Schools. Proven by LPRO, property tax collection is not a major source of funding and especially is not the only source.

Schools' dependence upon property taxes is not the only source to fund education. K-12 education is a bloated money-pit. No amount of money will satiate the hunger by giving the beast more. But what has extreme funding of schools obtained? Oregon

K-12 ranks 31 out of 50 in the US (Journal of Consumer Affairs). That is appalling. All school boards, administrations, teachers, and staff should be ashamed. Why would a parent want to send their child to an Oregon public school? Our neighbor to the north is ranked 4 out of 50.

Oregon schools are top heavy in administration. The Portland school superintendent gets paid, as per govsalaries.com, over \$342,000 per year—that's ridiculous, if not criminal. When I was in high school, we had one principal, one vice-principal, two councilors, and one part-time nurse, which worked well for a school with 1900 students. Nelson High School, in Clackamas County, has two principals, many administrative assistants, one assistant principal, a dean of students (why? —this isn't college), four counselors, a psychologist (why? —forced Obamacare mandates medical insurance), and a nurse.

With proper fiscal responsibility, sensible pay structures, and reasonable school programs, the fat and pork could easily be cut, without a decline in school rank—can't get much worse anyway. Sidenote: the schools should go to a merit-based program which promotes excellence, with responsible funding—the over-paid superintendents should be able to figure that out.