

Submitter: Kathleen Barber

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Dear Members of the Joint Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 2025. This bill threatens the very foundation of Oregon's working and middle-class communities—people like me who were born, raised, and continue to live and contribute to our state.

HB 2025 will increase the financial burden on everyday Oregonians who are already struggling to keep up with the rising cost of living. It's policies like this that are driving long-time residents out of their own state—not because they want to leave, but because they simply can't afford to stay.

Every day, I see cars on the road with expired tags. Why is this happening? I believe it's because many people can't afford the high cost of renewing their vehicle registration—not because they want to break the law. This should be a wake-up call. Rather than adding more taxes and fees, we need to ask: What can the state do to make life more affordable for working families?

Before reaching into the pockets of hardworking Oregonians yet again, the state should focus on enforcing existing laws. Go after individuals and businesses who are breaking the law and avoiding their financial obligations. Cracking down on widespread issues like money laundering—yes, it's happening here in Oregon—could recoup millions in lost revenue without hurting the average citizen.

It's also time to reassess where our tax dollars are going. Handouts to individuals who are not here legally, including free health insurance and benefit cards, are not what Oregonians agreed to when we paid our taxes. That money should be going toward improving services for citizens who are playing by the rules, paying taxes, and supporting our communities.

Furthermore, state agencies should look inward. Too many administrative departments are bloated, inefficient, and overdue for downsizing. Redirecting funds from redundant bureaucracy to essential services would go a long way.

There are dozens of ways to raise state revenue without squeezing more out of everyday citizens. Target fraud. Reform spending. Enforce existing laws. Prioritize Oregon families and workers. HB 2025 does none of these, and that is why it must be rejected.

Please stand with the people who make this state run: the welders, nurses, farmers, truck drivers, teachers, and thousands of others who just want to live and work in the state they love without being taxed out of it.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Barber