

Submitter: Michelle Kuenzi

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

My name is Michelle Kuenzi, and I'm a lifelong Oregonian, a mom of five, and someone who loves this state deeply. All five of my kids are in their late teens and twenties. They are just starting out. Some are building careers, others are thinking about buying homes, and many are dreaming about raising their own families right here in Oregon, just like I did.

But the dream is slipping further out of reach. The cost of living has skyrocketed. Housing, groceries, child care, and gas are all becoming unaffordable. My kids are already making sacrifices just to get by. They want to stay here, to stay close to family, to contribute to their communities, and to build a future in the place they grew up. But bills like HB 2025 are making it harder for them to stay.

Adding billions of dollars in new transportation taxes and fees might seem manageable to someone with a stable income and no kids at home. But for young people who are just getting started, it is crushing. Higher gas prices, increased DMV fees, and taxes on car sales all hit working families the hardest. It makes basic transportation feel like a luxury.

I am asking you to reconsider the direction we are heading. If we keep raising costs without thinking about how it affects the next generation, we won't just lose revenue, we will lose our young families. My kids are trying to stay. Please do not give them another reason to leave.

Please vote no on HB 2025.