

Submitter: Crista Gardner

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4125

I am writing to you as a Portland resident, mother to a third grade student at Ainsworth Elementary School, and family small business owner. My family has been in Oregon for over five generations and we CARE about Oregon, its students, and its economic competitiveness in the future. We support HB 4125 to modernize the kicker!

NOW is the time to effect change and reform Oregon taxes to benefit children and future small businesses like mine. I am sick and tired of the continuous lack of funding for schools, starting with Measure 5 and then with Measure 50. My single mother was a PPS music teacher laid off, and thankfully re-trained as a multilingual teacher, due to Measure 5 in the 1990s. My family and I have continuously advocated for different funding sources, including advocating with PAT for the sales tax initiative that failed in 1994. We are continuously failing generations of Oregon children - and simultaneously damaging our business climate by failing to attract talented employees with families to our city due to the failures of our schools.

The structure of the Kicker right now is destabilizing to the General Fund. Without a stable, growing General Fund, public education will never get a big enough piece of the pie. The Revenue Forecast Modernization Act or HB 4125 makes budget predictions less high stakes for our children and communities.

I'm calling on you, my lawmakers, to boldly in support of this bill and pass it into law. As the federal "Big Beautiful Bill" legislation starts to take effect, Oregon's General Fund will require a solid foundation, and the current Kicker is a perpetual crack in that foundation. Let's have a revenue prediction system that ensures investment in our children and in the future small business in our state.