

Submitter: Emily Essley
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4125

Hello, Chair Nathanson and Co-Vice Chairs Reschke and Walters,

I am a constituent of yours in SE Portland and my child is a student at Creston Elementary School. We care about Oregon and its students. We support HB 4125 to modernize the kicker.

My kiddo is a 4th grader this year, and every year for the 5 years we've been in Portland Public Schools, we've endured harrowing budget cuts. This year our 4th and 5th grade classes are combined to accommodate the shrinking budget, and it looks like next year will bring further tightening and eliminations. This is not a sustainable cycle, and without intervention, I see a very dark future for our public education system. Further, the needs of our state don't end with our schools. We are remain in the midst of a housing crisis, and our infrastructure is crumbling.

Oregon is a place that prides itself on its amazing community, and I want us to sustain and nourish our incredible resource by enabling our legislature to effectively invest in our communities. I support Kicker reform as a means to bring more options to our legislature's ability to fuel our general fund.

Thank you for hearing this testimony!

--Emily Essley