

Submitter: Christina Tongue
On Behalf Of: Duniway Elementary
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4125

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

I am a constituent in House District 41 and my oldest child is a 4th grade student at Duniway Elementary School. Her younger brother will start kindergarten there next year and her baby sister will start kindergarten there 3 years down the road. I care deeply about our state, its students and their future and thus I support HB 4125 and its efforts to modernize the kicker.

Our great state is quickly losing ground. Our students are being robbed of the education they deserve because the grown ups can't get their priorities straight. In the end, Oregon will pay the price because families will leave, future tax payers will leave and make their homes elsewhere in places that make children and education a priority.

Here is an opportunity to make a difference and show Oregon families that education, children and the future of Oregon are of importance. Reform Oregon taxes to benefit children. It is time to put Oregon's children first and support legislation that will stabilize Oregon's budget. For too long Oregon has insufficiently funded its public schools, starting with Measure 5 and then with Measure 50.

We are continuously failing generations of Oregon's children. The structure of the kicker is destabilizing 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 speak out 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 our state. Now is the time for Oregon to take care of Oregonians.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony and for your service.

Sincerely,
Christina Tongue