

Submitter: Rosie Burkoff
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Special Committee On Referendum Petition
2026-302
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1599

I am a lifelong Oregonian and a first-generation American citizen. I'm also a single mother raising five children without any government assistance. I work hard, pay my taxes, and contribute to my community—but families like mine cannot absorb endless tax increases caused by long-term mismanagement.

Raising taxes does not solve the underlying issues. It only slows the bleeding while placing an even heavier burden on working residents who are already stretched thin. What new taxes will come next? How much more can you expect Oregon's legal residents to pay?

Our young people are struggling to get on their feet as the cost of living rises faster than wages. They face high housing costs, high transportation costs, and now even higher taxes. This is not sustainable.

We have watched major corporations leave Oregon. Intel layoffs have affected thousands of families. Portland's economic decline is visible downtown. Oregon was once known for its beauty, stability, and opportunity. Now it feels like we are losing our footing due to policies that do not take into account the real-world impact on families like mine.

I am asking you to reconsider the direction we are going. Oregon's working families cannot take any more. It is time to prioritize long-term fiscal responsibility, economic stability, and policies that support—not burden—the residents who call this state home. We were loud and clear but working together as volunteers to prepare and present this Referendum to you and still as snakes you are trying to force it upon us. As public elected officials you are not hearing us. We the people have spoken. Its time to remove the ear plugs.