

Submitter: Michael Berry

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR201

Chair Broadman, Vice-Chair McLane, and Members of the Committee -

I appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony, even though I expect that it will be ignored. It seems that the process of receiving public testimony has become a procedural formality... an outlet that allows we who submit comment to THINK that we may be having our voices heard, while in reality we are doing nothing useful... kind of like office workers fiddling with a dummy thermostat that has been installed to appease the peasants.

This should be simple. NO on SJR 201.

The Oregon State Legislature and the Governor have imposed many taxes on Oregonians in recent years, bringing in much revenue. The Corporate Activity Tax, a.k.a. the Student Success Act, is but one example. Plenty of revenue, but very little, if any, success demonstrated.

Please focus more on the other side of the ledger: expenses. There needs to be more result per dollar spent directly toward education. Effective action needs to be taken to reign in the underfunded liabilities of the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). The expenses for "healthcare" paid for by Oregon taxpayers need to be reduced. Except perhaps in extreme circumstances, "healthcare" paid for by taxpayers should not be extended to people who are in the USA in violation of law.

Incessantly raising taxes ought NOT be the sole solution, or the "go-to" solution for balancing state budgets.

Again- NO on SJR 201.

Ah- I feel better already. (Joking.)

Thank you.

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