

Submitter: Michael Cooke
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR201

Please vote NO on this disastrous, unethical bill designed to raid Oregon citizens' "kicker"! The Oregon Kicker returns Oregon taxpayers' overpaid taxes back to them. That is exactly how it should be. Those overpaid taxes do not belong to the state of Oregon; they belong to the taxpayers who paid them! IMHO, raiding those overpayments is the same as outright theft, no matter how righteous or how just those in the Oregon legislature may think the cause. If something is worth funding, it should be included in that year's budget, not hastily tacked on and funded by taking citizens' excess tax dollars! This bill is the very same thing as if any Oregonian handed over a \$20 bill at your local grocery cash register for \$13 in merchandise and then having the cashier refuse to give you back your correct change with only a blank stare! That is nothing less than pure, unadulterated criminal robbery. If that happened to you, you would be incensed and indignant, maybe even angry! Yet you would blithely take that money from the hands of need Oregon families. So please don't do that to Oregon's taxpayers.

Many families today are struggling to put food on the table and gas in their cars to go to work. Many families work two or even three jobs just to stay afloat. Many families need every dollar that they can earn simply to survive in today's economic climate. Those families most assuredly do not deserve to have their overpaid taxes confiscated by greedy inept legislators who have not yet learned how to budget honestly and correctly.

The kicker is not a slush fund for government. Any overpaid tax money should and must be returned to the taxpayers. If the taxpayers want to give that excess money to worthy causes they are always free to do so themselves. It is, after all, their money, not the state's. Oregon simply collects those taxes and uses them to fund programs and personnel as defined in that year's budget. We taxpayers do not need to have our pockets robbed by unethical legislators who obviously cannot properly define or adhere to an agreed upon annual budget. This bill simply exacerbates and highlights the total incompetence of our current slate of legislators!

Any legislator of any party who backs this travesty of a bill is nothing more than a petty thief caught with his hands in the cookie jar!. I will never vote for anyone of any party who votes for this unethical cash-grab bill. They will have proven to me that they are not worthy of the office that they hold. Search your conscience to find the truth. Please do the right thing and oppose this theft of public taxes!

Thank you. I appreciate your assistance in this very important matter.

Michael R. Cooke