

## Gary Leif

### State Representative

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### Committees

2 Joint Ways & Means Committees  
#1. Transportation and Economic Development  
#2. Public Safety

## OREGON STATE LEGISLATURE 900 COURT ST NE SALEM, OREGON 97301

2019-05-02

No Vote - Explanation on HB 3427

I would like to explain my "NO" vote position on HB3427. I support schools and will support the upcoming student success legislation. However, HB3427 was not the student success legislation but rather a broad reaching sales tax measure. Fifteen times the Oregon Voters have rejected a sales tax and this legislature used the future of our children as a hostage to implement the first ever Oregon Sales Tax.

I am also concerned that the large corporations who support so many of the elected officials were exempted from this tax. In addition, the actual implementation and impact of the new tax remains uncertain. The promise of a better education was used as a shield to promote this new tax initiative.

During the debate we discussed the concept of tax pyramiding. This means that the tax will be applied over and over again as goods and services move from the manufacturers to the final consumers. Make no mistake, despite the rhetoric, this tax will ultimately be paid by the consumers in the form of higher prices and reduced job opportunities.

Furthermore, I voted "NO" because this tax is actually designed to continue funding the past PERS shortfalls. While the legislature promises to increase school funding, they will next increase the PERS past payment amounts and simply shift the money back into the state coffers. The legislature has simply played a shell game and created a non-voter supporter sales tax, time will show that little if any improvements in our schools come from this tax.

Let's make our School System better, we have the money and resources and can do a bi-partisan bill, instead of this bill. Let's move the PERS shortfall to a line item on the general fund and stop trying to fix past mistakes on the backs of current employees. Let's stop creating new taxes in Salem that have clearly been rejected by the voters.

Respectfully,

Representative Gary Leif  
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