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Contact: Caitie Butler

(503) 986-1955

(503) 680-6944

Senate Republicans Propose Immediate Tax Relief

Bill would protect the 'Kicker' and give Oregonians their full refund as soon as possible

Salem, OR - For Oregonians, the 'kicker' means welcome tax relief. However, if Senate Democrats have their way, Oregonians won't get that much-needed relief. Despite \$1.44 billion in additional resources from recent economic growth, Democrats are struggling to find enough money to spend on schools, health care, public safety, and transportation. Now, they want to raise taxes and take back the voter-approved kicker to pay for new programs.

"With an extra \$1.44 billion in revenue and more expected to come, it's hard to explain why Oregon doesn't have enough to make a game-changing investment in education," said Senator Tim Knopp (R-Bend). "Democrats just passed a K-12 budget they admitted is inadequate. So where is the rest of the money going? It appears Democrats have the wrong priorities."

One thing is clear: it's not being spent on schools. By intentionally underfunding education now, Democrats appear to be using our children and schools as political leverage to steal the voter-approved tax refund from Oregonians. Senate Republicans have introduced legislation to protect the kicker and give Oregonians tax relief through a stimulus check as soon as possible.

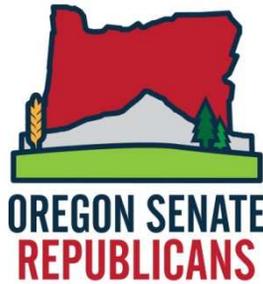
SB 961 would change the way the full kicker refund is allocated from a tax credit next year to a stimulus check this year. This could mean an immediate refund of approximately \$180 for Oregonians depending on the total amount of taxes paid.

"It's clear the current Democratic leadership is unable to prioritize and control state spending,"

said Senator Herman Baertschiger (R-Grants Pass). "There's never enough. That's why we need to protect Oregonians' pocketbooks and give them tax relief sooner rather than later."

According to Senate Republicans, it is time to give Oregonians the full voter-approved kicker tax refund they deserve, before it's stolen by Democrats and spent on the wrong priorities for Oregon.

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