

State Representative  
Cliff Bentz  
House District 60

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CONTACT: Representative Cliff Bentz  
503-986-1460



## Small School Funding Bill Passes House Revenue Committee

SALEM—Representative Cliff Bentz (R-Ontario) joined his colleagues on the House Committee on Revenue in unanimously voting out House Bill 2501. This bill adds a five year extension to the Small High School Grant program.

This program was created in 2007 by Senate Bill 550. Eligible high schools receive an annual proportional share of \$2.5 million from the State School Fund. To qualify, school districts must have less than 8,500 weighted students; the high schools in such a district must enroll less than 350 students for four grades and 267 students for three grades. The program provides about an additional \$200 per high school student each year.

Rep. Bentz also supported this program in 2012, voting yes on House Bill 4014, which extended the program to 2013.

In FY2011-12, fifteen high schools in Rep. Bentz's District received funding under this program, including: Huntington, Burnt River, John Day, Prairie City, Monument, Dayville, Long Creek, Crane, Burns, Lakeview, North Lake, Jordan Valley, Nyssa, Adrian, and Vale.

“Access to quality education is essential,” Rep. Bentz remarked. “This funding helps small school districts provide educational opportunities somewhat similar to those provided to children living in metropolitan-area school districts. Costs per student are obviously higher in schools with fewer students, so this extra financial support enables the hiring of more teachers, the provision of extra textbooks and better technology, and the development of a more rigorous and improved curriculum. This modest additional assistance helps rural schools better educate students competing in an increasingly demanding academic and economic world.”

House Bill 2501 successfully passed out of the House of Representatives on May 28<sup>th</sup> by a vote of 59-0. It now moves to the Senate.

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258 S. Oregon St., P.O. Box 1027, Ontario, OR 97914  
900 Court St. NE, H-475, Salem, OR 97301  
[rep.cliffbentz@state.or.us](mailto:rep.cliffbentz@state.or.us)