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NEWS RELEASE

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May 23, 2018

COURTNEY: FORECAST PRESENTS OPPORTUNITY

(SALEM) – Senate President Peter Courtney said today that the increased revenue projection included in the latest forecast from the Office of Economic Analysis presents a tremendous opportunity for Oregon.

The latest forecast significantly reduces the anticipated deficit for the 2019-21 biennium and sets the stage for comprehensive revenue reform, providing additional investment in Oregon’s K-12 schools that will provide every child in Oregon a fair shot at success. Revenue reform no longer has to be about catching up and filling holes, Courtney said.

“Revenue reform can finally be about investing in our kids. It can be about giving the next generation of Oregonians the tools they need to succeed in the global economy,” Courtney said. “We can insulate our children from the next downturn. We can do something for schools that we haven’t been able to do in more than two decades. We can create a dedicated, permanent funding source for K-12.”

Courtney pointed to the work of the Joint Committee on Student Success, which is touring the state examining the best practices employed in Oregon’s most successful schools and the gaps that are limiting student success in other schools. At each of its first five stops on its statewide tour, members of the committee have heard students describe the need for more teachers; more mental health counselors; better in-school health care; improved social services; expanded career technology programs; a dramatic increase in early childhood learning; and other critical improvements.

“We know the needs are there. We have an opportunity to make a tremendous difference for our children,” Courtney said. “We can make the 2019 session about the kids. We can focus on making their lives better today. We can help create unlimited possibilities for their future.”