PRESS RELEASE

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SENATE PASSES FUNDING FOR SUMMER LEARNING, WILDFIRE RECOVERY, AND EMERGENCY SHELTERS

SALEM, Ore. – Today, the Oregon State Senate passed House Bill 5042 to rebalance Oregon’s budget for the 2019-21 biennium and deliver investments to communities after a difficult year. The bill makes necessary adjustments to the current state budget and includes urgent funds for summer learning, wildfire recovery, and emergency shelters.

“This money is a real win for our kids,” said Senate President Peter Courtney (D-Salem). “The past year has been hard on our students and their families. They are struggling with school... and their mental health. Today, we made sure they have opportunities to learn and play this summer. We also passed funding for communities dealing with homelessness and last year’s fires. The Legislature will help Oregonians wherever they are hurting.”

The bill includes the following investments:

- $250 million for the Summer Learning and Child Care Package, creating opportunities for children to learn and be active during the summer months. The package includes funding for enrichment activities, wraparound child care services, summer school for high school students, and early learning programs.

- $5.2 million to support recovery efforts in communities impacted by the 2020 wildfire season.

- $18 million for emergency, low-barrier shelters in Salem, Eugene, Medford, Bend, Roseburg, and McMinnville. These shelters, known as navigation centers, will be open
24/7 to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness obtain access to support and services.

The Senate approved HB 5042 with a 23-5 vote, after having passed 55-0 in the House. The bill now heads to the Governor’s desk.

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