



NEWS

Oregon Legislature - House Democratic Caucus

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Contact Geoff Sugerman (503) 986-1907

Michael Cox (503) 986-1904

House Unanimously Approves Rebalance Plan for 2009-2011

House Keeps Promise to Schools, Other Critical Services

SALEM – The Oregon House today approved a series of bills that provide promised funding for schools and other critical services for the remainder of the current 2009-2011 biennium. The bills included a \$35.5 million allocation for schools, as well as funding for prisons, the Oregon Youth Authority and programs that provide assistance for seniors and other vulnerable Oregonians.

The series of bills all passed the House unanimously and pave the way for final action on the 2009-2011 budget.

“We’re not kicking people off health care like they are doing in Washington. We’re not denying kids admission to college like they are doing in California. We’ve managed our way through a very difficult two years without having to borrow money and with protections for our schools, our vulnerable citizens and our public safety system,” said Ways and Means House Co-Chair Peter Buckley. “This bipartisan agreement to rebalance our budget is one of the final actions we need to take to put a very difficult two years behind us. But we still have a long way to go to get to a balanced budget for the coming biennium.”

House Democratic Leader Dave Hunt said unanimous passage of the bills fulfils an agreement from last fall that critical services would be protected to the greatest extent possible.

“We kept our school doors open for the remainder of this year. We kept prisoners locked up. We ensured our seniors and vulnerable Oregonians have the services they need to survive this global recession. We’ve kept our state intact while making strong investments in our future that will provide jobs and rebuild our infrastructure for decades into the future,” said Hunt.

Bills now await final passage by the Senate.

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