



NEWS

Oregon Legislature - House Democratic Caucus

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House Democrats Say Greater Share of Reserve Funds Should Be Used to Protect Schools, Kids and Seniors

SALEM - Oregon House Democrats will continue to work to lessen deep cuts to schools, public safety and health care identified in the Co-Chairs' budget released today, and will advocate for using a greater share of the \$444 million in reserves to mitigate those cuts.

House Democrats are also seeking passage of a number of bills that will save the state money in areas ranging from reducing the number of state managers, reducing health care costs and continuing to pare back wasteful tax breaks. But even with those potential savings, they believe using a greater portion of the state's reserve funds will still be necessary.

"We think the co-chairs budget of \$5.7 billion for K-12 is not adequate and the \$444 million in reserves is simply too much to stash away at a time of such deep cuts," said Rep. Dave Hunt, House Democratic Leader. "We need to find the right balance to protect Oregonians from cuts while maintaining a sensible amount of reserves."

"As the economic picture becomes clearer, we believe the Legislature's best move to protect middle class families is to access reserve funds for our schools and in-home care for seniors and people with disabilities, as well as promote legislation requiring state government to be more efficient," Rep. Tobias Read (D-Beaverton) said.

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