



# NEWS

Oregon Legislature - House Democratic Caucus

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact Geoff Sugerman (503) 986-1907

Michael Cox (503) 986-1904

## **Statement by House Democratic Leader Dave Hunt on Today's Revenue Forecast**

“Today’s improving revenue forecast is clearly welcome news. Oregon is moving out of this global recession and slowly but steadily gaining momentum in our recovery.

“We believe this increased revenue forecast, combined with the use of existing savings in the Education Stability Fund, will achieve a balanced budget without needlessly destructive cuts to human services, schools and other critical services.

“Restoration of proposed cuts in the Human Services budget – particularly cuts to seniors, children and people with developmental disabilities – is critical to both protecting these families and preventing a potential double dip recession due to the loss of private sector jobs and reduced consumer spending that would result from these cuts.

“House Democrats believe using reserve funds to increase the dollars for education is vital to continuing our economic recovery and providing our children with the tools they need to thrive in a global economy. This recession has taken its toll on the spectrum of education from Head Start to higher education. House Democrats are committed to ending the downward spiral of education funding.

“The cuts that would have to occur under the current budget proposal are the deepest yet for many school districts.

“School closures have become commonplace. Hundreds of Oregon teachers are being laid off. Weeks of school are being cut. Programs are being eliminated so that graduating seniors often have no electives to take once their core class requirements have been met. The ability of our children to compete successfully in the global marketplace hinges on a strong and thriving education system from ages 0-20. We have a chance to do better for all levels of education this session... and we must.

“We are making hundreds of millions of dollars in cuts to state agency budgets. We are reducing government spending. Our all-funds budget is down over \$5 billion from last biennium.

“But we cannot mortgage the future of Oregon by accepting a budget that does not make use of every resource at our disposal to get through this global recession intact.

“Using these dollars now – as our job picture shows solid and steady movement forward – will prevent a double dip recession and help spur our economic recovery forward.”

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