



## OFFICE OF THE HOUSE SPEAKER

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### NEWS RELEASE

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### **Statement by House Speaker Tina Kotek on supporting Oregonians impacted by the coronavirus pandemic**

SALEM, Ore. – House Speaker Tina Kotek today issued the following statement on the role and responsibility of the Oregon Legislature in responding to the coronavirus pandemic:

“I strongly support the steps that Governor Brown has taken through her executive orders to control the spread of coronavirus and provide support to Oregonians reeling from the resulting financial instability. I know that the work of the Joint Special Committee on Coronavirus Response is being taken seriously and will help to inform her future actions. I am heartened by the spirit of bipartisanship that has driven the committee’s work, and I am confident that we will be prepared for a special session when the Governor chooses to call one.

“In the meantime, I believe the legislature must use the tools available to us to help families and small businesses who are struggling right now. The Oregon Constitution provides the legislature with the immediate ability, through the Emergency Board, to allocate emergency funds to address urgent needs. These funds are limited, but they could be allocated strategically to provide some relief until the federal stimulus from the CARES Act reaches Oregonians’ pocketbooks.

“All branches and levels of government need to pull together during difficult times. We can and should do more now to provide gap funding for essential needs like food and shelter while we wait for federal assistance. I will work to get more support to Oregonians through Emergency Board funding. I urge my colleagues to support this effort and find ways to make sure no Oregonian falls through the cracks during this crisis.”

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