



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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CONTACT: Amanda Kraus, 503-986-1074

Amanda.Kraus@oregonlegislature.gov

Senate Majority Leader Rob Wagner Statement on Adjournment of the Second Special Session of 2020

SALEM – Tonight, the Oregon State Senate adjourned the Second Special Session of 2020. Upon adjournment sine die, Senate Majority Leader Rob Wagner (D-Lake Oswego) issued the following statement.

“Today, the Oregon Legislature prioritized protecting vital public services like K-12 education by voting to adopt a rebalance plan in response to the COVID-19 recession. Our state’s financial health, like that of many Oregonians, shifted dramatically as a result of this public health emergency. Fortunately, for years Democrats have prioritized saving money in the state’s Rainy Day Fund and the Education Stability Fund.

“Senate Democrats’ dedication to fiscal responsibility and smart saving allowed us to maintain our deep commitment to our children and to public education, even as we had to make significant adjustments due to a steep economic downturn. This budget rebalance keeps our State School Fund and Student Success Act funding for early learning whole. We will continue to fund Career and Technical Education Programs and offer Community College support. We’ve also protected the Oregon Opportunity Grant for college. Access to education is key to long term outcomes and an educated population supports economic recovery.

“In this time of economic uncertainty, Senate Democrats made certain to keep intact the critical services Oregonians across the state rely on. Access to food and Medicaid are untouched, and we continue to invest in affordable housing and homeless services. Additionally, domestic violence services and child welfare will receive complete funding to do their seriously necessary work.

“This budget rebalance was no easy task and no decision came lightly. Going forward, Oregon will need to continue to stay flexible as we learn more about the economic impacts of COVID-19.

“Senate Democrats also passed urgent policies that will help people right away. Oregonians have continued to call for policing reform and the Joint Committee on Transparent Policing and Use of Force Reform has worked for weeks to craft policies to eliminate racist policing. The Black, Indigenous and

People of Color Caucus has led the way in the Legislature and ensured we continue to respond to this poignant moment in history and make real change. We will continue this work throughout the interim, in 2021 and beyond.

“In addition, Senate Democrats took up policies to address the needs of unemployed Oregonians. We ensured workers can continue to collect Unemployment Insurance benefits as they get back to work and streamlined the process for Pandemic Unemployment Insurance. Too many Oregonians are struggling and it’s important the Legislature acts in any way we can to help weather this crisis. We also need state support from our federal government. The failure to deliver local and state governments further support is a threat to the vital services we have worked so hard to protect.”

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