



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Senate Democrats prepare to move legislation expanding aid to unemployed *Senate committee will hold hearing Monday, move bill on Wednesday*

SALEM – This coming Monday, on the opening day of the February session, the Senate Commerce and Workforce Development Committee will hold an informational hearing on extending unemployment insurance benefits to an estimated 18,600 out-of-work Oregonians.

“While job creation remains the number one priority in this building, we have a responsibility to make sure that those Oregonians who are struggling to find work are able to put food on the table and take care of their children said Senator Diane Rosenbaum (D-Portland), chair of the Committee.

A legislative proposal utilizes \$19 million in the unemployment trust fund from a similar extension passed in the 2009 session. Federal stimulus dollars supplemented that extension, leaving a remaining balance for a new extension.

“The February session is about responding to emerging issues and looking out for the unemployed continues to be a priority of immense importance,” said Senate Majority Leader Richard Devlin (D-Tualatin). “Supporting Oregonians who are looking for work is a cornerstone of the Senate Democrats’ priorities for the February session.”

The Senate Commerce and Workforce Development Committee will meet Wednesday, February 3 at 3:30, to consider action on SB 990, a bill that extends unemployment benefits. The bill will not affect current employer rates or the unemployment insurance trust fund balance. The \$19 million is estimated to last until mid-April with eligible claimants receiving no more than 6 weeks of additional benefits.

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For more information on the Senate Majority Caucus, please visit oregonsenatedemocrats.com