



# SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Senate Republicans put on encore performance of budget obstructionism**

*Once again, every single Senate Republican votes against additional funding for K-12 schools*

SALEM—Senate Republicans have already rejected the largest K-12 schools budget in Oregon history. Today they once again voted to obstruct finding by opposing an additional \$140 million for education. House Bill 2456B, which would have raised \$215 million in revenue to provide more funding for critical services, failed on a party-line vote with every single Senate Republican voting no.

“We had a rare opportunity to make an extraordinary investment in Oregon schools and services today, but it was unfortunately squandered by partisan posturing from the Senate GOP,” said Senate Majority Leader Diane Rosenbaum (D-Portland). “Apparently their floor speeches in support of a bigger K-12 budget were just a smokescreen for their demand to give more tax breaks to the wealthy.”

On June 17, Senate Bill 5519 failed by a vote of 15-15, with every single Senate Republican voting no. At the time, Senate Republicans indicated their opposition was because the K-12 number was too low. While the bill passed in later weeks, many from the Senate GOP still indicated a desire for a bigger appropriation.

House Bill 2456B would have directed an additional \$100 million to K-12 schools, \$20 million more for universities, \$20 million more for community colleges, \$40 million in new funding for senior services, and \$20 million more for statewide mental health treatment services.

In order to raise \$215 million in new funding for these services, HB 2456B would have increased the corporate tax rate by one percent for income over \$2.5 million, increased the cigarette tax by 10 cents a pack, and phased out certain income tax benefits for the wealthy. The bill also restructures a tax benefit for seniors receiving medical care in order to make it more accessible to lower-income seniors.

Despite these substantial increases for education, Senate Republicans maintained their opposition to more resources for schools with their caucus unanimously voting down HB 2456B.

“Once again, Senate Democrats have put together a package to make a huge investment in schools, and once again, Senate Republicans have put themselves in the way between students and a better education,” said Rosenbaum. “This is not the kind of encore performance that Oregonians want from their legislators.”

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*For more information on the Senate Majority Caucus, please visit [www.orsenatemajority.org](http://www.orsenatemajority.org)*