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Senate Democrats Reject Amendment to Redirect Wasteful Spending to Education, Mental Health Services

Salem, Ore. - Today, Senate Democrats unanimously rejected a Republican-sponsored budget amendment eliminating over \$300 million in wasteful spending and redirecting the savings to education, mental health services, and job training.

"The Oregon Senate missed an opportunity to realign its priorities and fund important services like education, mental health and domestic violence aid," said Senate Republican Leader Ted Ferrioli (R-John Day). "Instead, Senate Democrats signaled to working Oregon families that they care more about pork projects and special interests. They approved a raise for state employees two times higher than they promised last year. This \$300 million in wasteful spending is real money we could be using to improve the quality of life for Oregonians."

Senate Republicans moved to refer SB 5701, the budget rebalance bill, to the Ways and Means Committee to adopt the -A5 amendment. The Republican amendment removes large pay raises and new perks for state employees, \$2 million in bloated agency budgets and red tape, and nearly \$2.5 million in special pork projects from the 2015-2017 budget. Instead, the amendment would fund workforce training, CTE programs at community colleges, youth employment incentives, K-12 education, mental health funding, merit-based scholarships, relief nurseries, county road funding, Veteran and affordable housing assistance, shelter and legal aid for domestic violence, and add \$100 million for the rainy day fund.

The motion to adopt the -A5 amendment to SB 5701 failed on a party-line vote.

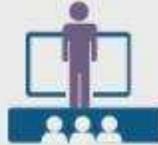
The Republican Budget Plan

SB 5701-A5

Redirect \$308.9 million of wasteful spending to better purposes, such as job training and K-12 education.



\$100 million
for K-12
education



\$50 million
for CTE
programs at
community
colleges



\$1 million
for
incentivizing
youth
employment



\$20 million
to counties for
desperately
needed road
repairs



\$2.5 million
for merit
based
scholarships at
Oregon
colleges



\$1 million
for Veteran
housing
assistance



\$1.2 million
for legal aid
for domestic
violence
survivors



\$9 million
for workforce
training



\$300,000
for relief
nurseries



\$2 million
for domestic
violence
shelter
grants



\$14 million
for mental
health
funding

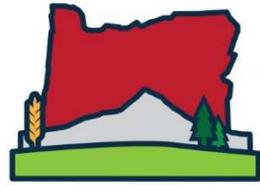


\$8 million
for affordable
housing
assistance



\$100 million
to the rainy
day fund

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