

## **Senator Alan Olsen Senate District 20**



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### **Senator Alan Olsen Pushes Increased Investment in Higher Education for Oregon Students**

Salem, OR - Today, Senator Alan Olsen (R-Canby) spoke in favor of a bill to grow Oregon's investment in higher education. Senate Democrats rejected SB 923 on a party-line vote on the Senate floor.

"On Monday, the Senate passed a K-12 budget that is woefully inadequate," said Senator Olsen. "Now, Democrats are setting the same low bar for higher education. Senate Republicans identified several ways we could increase funding for education without cutting other services, but majority Democrats rejected all of them. Why don't they instead end subsidies to Gain Share and send \$95 million to higher education?"

Between 2007 and 2014, lawmakers cut state funding for undergraduate degrees in Oregon by over 38%. In the same time period, tuition and fees at Oregon's seven public university swelled by 41%. The average undergraduate tuition for Oregon residents was \$8,391 in 2014, up from \$5,928 in 2007.

"Access to higher education is critical to ensure Oregonians can find family-wage jobs," explained Olsen. "The current Democrat budget will guarantee tuition increases above 5% for Oregon college students. Higher education is an important investment for Oregon, and attempts to underfund higher education by Democrats fail Oregon's middle class."

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