



OREGON SENATE REPUBLICANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Democrat Budget Shortchanges Oregon Students

Republicans Oppose K-12 Funding Cuts

Salem, Oregon - Today, despite opposition from Senate Republicans, the Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education passed House Bill 5017 on a partisan vote, shortchanging Oregon's children and our local schools.

"The Democrat education budget means fewer teachers, larger class sizes, and reduced school days," said Senator Chuck Thomsen (R-Hood River). "With the worst on-time graduation rate in the United States, we need to fully fund education and put much needed dollars back into our classrooms. This budget doesn't accomplish that."

Oregon has the fewest number of students graduating from high school in four years, while dedicating less of the state's budget to K-12 education than a decade ago. Oregon's failure to prioritize education has resulted in a D- ranking for student achievement, placing Oregon behind neighboring states California, Idaho, Nevada, and Washington.

"Today, only 35% of 8th graders are proficient in math and reading and Oregon is 48th in improving math skills," said Senator Tim Knopp (R-Bend). "It's time we put our kids first and invest in a budget that will allow for creativity, innovation, and accommodation of all learning styles."

Senate Republicans have pledged to put school funding first and create jobs and prioritize spending to fully fund K-12 education (without stealing the voter-adopted kicker) to add back school days and reduce class sizes.

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