



*from the office
of*

Sen. Chuck Thomsen

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Feb. 21, 2017

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Brown's veterans services slashes are shameful *Governor pickpockets veterans millions of dollars in budget*

SALEM, Ore.-State Sen. Chuck Thomsen, R-Hood River, expressed disapproval for Gov. Kate Brown slashing veterans services by millions of dollars in her budget.

Thomsen said:

"Gov. Kate Brown's decision to slash veterans services by millions and millions of dollars, flies in the face of 83.76 percent of Oregonians, Democrats and Republicans and Independents, who care about our veterans. But what's worse than the governor thinking she can trick Oregonians is that she is willing to spit in the faces of veterans, reaching out a hand while she kicks them, and that she thinks she will get away with it. Not on my watch."

A 2016 ballot measure aimed at generating additional funding for Oregon veterans passed overwhelmingly in November. In fact, [83.76 percent of Oregonians supported the proposal](#).

Measure 96 appropriates 1.5 percent of Oregon lottery funds for veterans services, and it is expected to bring in \$18 million over the next two years.

The previous state budget allocated \$10 million dollars for Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs, plus a \$3 million dollar bond for a veterans home.

If that funding was maintained this budget cycle and the lottery funds totaled \$18 million as projected, that would equal about \$31 million dollars for veterans services, according to [KOBI-5](#).

But, Brown's budget outlines a total of only \$19.8 million, nearly 18 of that being the lottery funds, with \$2 million coming from the state's general fund. That is a striking \$10 million dollar difference from what the state funded in the last budget.

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