



from the office

of

Sen. Kim Thatcher

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Brown's raiding veterans services flat-out immoral
Governor pulls bait-and-switch on veterans, voters

SALEM, Ore.-State Sen. Kim Thatcher, R-Keizer, expressed outrage with Gov. Kate Brown's proposed slashes to veterans services by millions of dollars in her budget.

Thatcher said:

"Oregonians recognize we have a moral obligation to take care of our veterans and they expressed that in their overwhelming support to increase funding for veterans. The governor's defunding of veterans amounts to a bait-and-switch not only to veterans, but also to Oregon voters."

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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