



Dear Friends and Neighbors in District 24,

**What is New in this Session:**

This will be a session of firsts in Oregon history. We have an evenly divided house with two co-speakers, we have our first three term governor, and our first annual legislative session. Unfortunately this also comes with an extremely challenging budget deficit that we will have to work hard to close in the least painful ways possible.

My committees this session primarily focus on budget issues. I'll be serving on:

- Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education, Co-Chair
- General Government, Consumer and Small Business Protection
- Full Way and Means
- Ways and Means Subcommittee On Public Safety

**Legislative Priorities:**

In addition to my focus on the budget, I'm working on several issues important to our community. This includes a bill that will allow David Douglas School District in East Portland to use urban renewal money to build a school and community center. The proposed center would be located on land that the school district already owns near the foot of Mt. Scott and would help ease the crowding in the District while lowering class sizes.

Schools have always been a priority of mine and I will continue to push for better education in this state. That's why I'm also working on legislation to make sure that community colleges can continue to provide classes to people who need to retrain for 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs. This is part of Oregon's workforce development effort to provide more skills to people whose jobs may no longer exist in this changing economy.

In addition to planning to build a new school in David Douglas School District, another building is already under construction thanks to my efforts to secure funding for a Head Start child care center at Mt. Hood Community College. This center is intended to provide child care so more students can balance their responsibilities while attending class and learning new skills. Many working single parents don't enroll in classes because they can't afford child care. This center will work to alleviate this burden so we can have more skilled workers in Oregon, which will not only benefit their family but also our communities as well. Now that the funding to build the center has been secured, the federal Head Start program will provide the operating costs, which will not seriously impact Oregon's already strained budget.

We welcome your comments. Please feel free to write us at:

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Sincerely,

Senator Rod Monroe