



OREGON HOUSE REPUBLICANS

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REPUBLICANS ENDORSE MEASURES TO FILL CURRENT K-12 BUDGET GAP; FUND 2009-11 K-12 BUDGET BY 81ST DAY

SALEM— House Republicans today said the Legislature should take immediate action to prevent education cuts and give school districts certainty for the 2007-09 K-12 budget and future budgets. The Legislature should withdraw a portion of the Education Stability Fund and match those dollars to reserve funds and administrative savings that are currently being utilized by school districts across the state.

“The 2007 Legislature made a promise on education funding that it couldn’t keep,” said House Republican Leader Bruce Hanna (R-Roseburg). “Now, we must work closely with our partners on the school boards and be willing to use the Education Stability Fund in exchange for savings being secured at the local level. House Republicans don’t support cutting a single school day this year.”

Rep. Dennis Richardson (R-Central Point) said the caucus is supportive of efforts by the Medford School District and others to match dollars from the Education Stability Fund to school districts’ budget savings.

“Medford School District has placed ideas on the table, and are conservatively using reserve funds and cost-cutting measures to save school days,” Rep. Richardson said. “In return, the Legislature should be willing to withdraw a portion of the fund and enable the Medford School District and other districts to save additional days.”

Rep. Richardson also said the Legislature should give school districts increased certainty for the next biennium by passing the 2009-11 K-12 education budget by the 81st day of session. House Republicans have also introduced House Joint Resolution 9, which would require the Legislature in future sessions to approve K-12 funding earlier in the session.

“Passing an education budget within 81 days gives school districts the opportunity to determine their funding before the fiscal year begins,” said Rep. Richardson, the chief sponsor of the House Republican resolution. “HJR 9 eliminates the politics of delay, and gives our school districts the certainty they need to plan the next school year.”

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