



OREGON HOUSE REPUBLICANS

In Case You Missed It

December 5, 2008

In Case You Missed It:

‘CONCIERGE’ SERVICES: HERE TODAY, GONE TOMORROW

The Oregon Employees Benefits Board removed references to a “[concierge service](#)” available to state employees after House Republicans highlighted the service in a press document yesterday.

Here Today...

Budget Belt Tightening On One Hand. More Employees, Concierge Service On The Other
WWire Blog, By Nigel Jaquiss, 12/4/2008

When Gov. Ted Kulongoski introduced his \$16 billion budget for 2009-2011 on Monday, he noted these are tough economic times will require sacrifice and hard choices.

"The budget...has gotten if not small – certainly smaller than any of us would like," Kulongoski said.

"This – without doubt – is going to cause real hardship for many Oregonians."

The House Republicans have since combed through Kulongoski's budget and found that it proposes to add 1,451 new state employees to the 49,518 full-time-equivalent positions budgeted for in the current biennium.

"Businesses are shedding thousands of jobs a month but state government isn't feeling the same pain," says Nick Smith, a spokesman for the House Republicans.

Smith noted that even in these straightened times, the Public Employee Benefit Board provides concierge services for harried state workers.

[Read More on Willamette Week's Web site...](#)

...Gone Tomorrow.

So Much for the Concierge?

Register-Guard Capitol Notebook Blog, By David Steves, 12/5/2008

Yesterday, Oregon's House Republicans put out a news release decrying a state budget that raises taxes and cuts services while adding 1,451 FTE positions in state government—get this—offers “concierge services” to state employees.

It included a link to the state Public Employees Benefits Board Web site that really did offer such a thing:

Concierge Services

The Cascade EAP offers information and resources to help today's busy people. Whether you want to know the season playbill at a local theatre or find dog obedience classes, call Cascade to find resources to make your life easier. Just call (800) 433-2320

But if you clicked on that same link today, you'll find no such service. Instead, you'll read the following:

[Read More on Register Guard's Web site...](#)