



**REPRESENTATIVE GENE WHISNANT
OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE DISTRICT 53**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 14, 2007**

**CONTACT: LEYLA ESTES
503-986-1453**

REP. WHISNANT SUPPORTS HIGHER FUNDING FOR OREGON SCHOOLS
House Approves \$6.245 billion K-12 Education Budget

SALEM – Rep. Gene Whisnant (R-Sunriver) today supported the 2007-09 education budget bill to provide \$6.245 billion for Oregon’s schools. He also voted to provide new investments in the School Improvement Fund, a school grant program that hasn’t been funded since 2001.

“Adequately funding K-12 was my top priority coming into this session,” Rep. Whisnant said. “The budget approved today will enable our schools to hire new teachers and acquire the educational resources we need to prepare our kids for the future but I’m disappointed that we did not increase accountability in this budget.”

The 2007-09 budget represents a 17 percent funding increase since the last biennium. The budget allows school districts to reduce class sizes and restore programs that have been cut in the past. It also includes funding for Oregon PreK/Head Start to prepare young Oregonians for school.

“This budget shows that education was our top priority for state spending this biennium,” Rep. Smith said. “I am proud to have supported this record investment in our public schools.”

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