



THANK YOU FOR YOUR 'GREEN LIGHT' ON HB 2456

HB 2456 is a modest proposal. It will ensure that the services most needed by Oregonians are more adequately funded than would be possible without it.

As Oregon begins to emerge from the financial crisis of the past five years, we must rebuild our schools, community college budgets, and other vital services. In these difficult economic times, too many of our school children come from homes in poverty – a condition that imposes various barriers to learning and academic achievement. Likewise, the doors of opportunity to advanced education remain shut for those who cannot afford tuition, even to our community colleges.

HB 2456 would improve life for these students. It would add, for instance, to essential TANF funding. Its resources would improve Oregon's community college budget, which has endured a decade of cut after devastating cut. Finally, it would bolster funding for physical education for our students, whose obesity epidemic is well-documented.

HB 2456 will not touch most Oregon income tax filers. Its tiny and incremental changes, which affect only wealthy individuals and prosperous corporations, will contribute to the economic health of all Oregonians, especially our most vulnerable.

Oregonians value fairness, and this bill represents that value, because it asks for shared responsibility. Our students have already paid a high price in shortened school years, huge class sizes, the loss of thousands of educators, and the elimination of too many programs and courses. Our families in poverty have lost access to services that help to keep them housed, fed, and healthy. Our public servants are being asked to forfeit \$455 million of income in the coming biennium alone.

HB 2456 asks profitable corporations and wealthy individuals to pay their fair share. HB 2456 equitably shares the load with those who've most profited in Oregon, even as others have faced hardship. Though its \$275 million net revenue is less than we would have liked to see, we hope you will see that it is a good plan that will help sustain our Oregon communities for the coming biennium.

Please vote "YES" on HB 2456.

From the desk of Rep. Chh's Gotsek