

*From the desk
of Sen. Chip Shields*



Stand up for Educators, Seniors and Middle Class Families

Vote NO on Senate Bill 861 and a flawed package of bills

The Oregon Education Association asks you to vote NO on PERS Legislation that unfairly asks public employees to carry the burden for Wall Street misdeeds. The package of bills before you is too high a price to pay, and the savings won't meet the needs of public education now or in the future. **PLEASE VOTE NO!**

Public pensions are not the equivalent of new revenue. Along with our fellow front line workers, educators have already sacrificed more than \$800 million of their hard-earned retirement to pay for schools and other vital services this biennium.

We cannot continue to balance our budgets and reduce our class sizes entirely on the backs of public employees. **We need to ensure that everyone pays their fair share, and this package simply doesn't add up.** Once again corporations are getting a pass and our students are being short changed.

These changes to PERS certainly don't meet any standards of fairness. **Equally important, they do not meet your responsibility as lawmakers to pass bills that are constitutionally sound.** Similar legislation has already been thrown out by the Oregon Supreme Court as a violation of basic contract law. (Strunk v. PERB, March 8, 2005). The courts have said loud and clear that a promise is a promise and this proposal to change the COLA directly violates existing contracts.

We cannot ignore the impact of the small business tax credit in the very next biennium. Without better and stronger side-boards and other new, larger sources of revenue to balance out the change, **it will have a negative impact on schools, seniors and other important service, estimated as soon as 2015 – making any new teachers hired, temporary.**

Please vote no on breaking promises made to tens-of-thousands of hard working Oregonians.

Vote NO on SB 861 and a flawed Special Session Package