



OFFICE OF THE HOUSE SPEAKER

900 Court St., N.E., Room H-269

Salem OR 97301

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OFFICIAL RELEASE

April 1, 2021

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House approves critical investments for summer learning, child care, emergency shelter and wildfire recovery

Rebalance package invests \$300 million in urgent needs

SALEM – The Oregon House of Representatives on Thursday advanced a series of bills to close out the state’s budget for the 2019-21 biennium and invest about \$300 million in response to Oregon’s most urgent needs, including funds for summer learning and child care, emergency shelters, and wildfire recovery.

“Oregonians are depending on this essential aid,” House Speaker Tina Kotek said. “We’ve spent the last year responding to crisis after crisis. As our state continues to recover from the many challenges 2020 brought, this funding package will make urgent investments to help Oregonians who are truly hurting.”

[House Bill 5042](#), which rebalances agency budgets for the 2019-21 biennium, also includes key investments:

- \$250 million for a summer learning and child care package to help students and families recover from the educational and emotional losses of the past year living in a global pandemic. The program will create grants for enrichment activities, academic support, child care, and early learning programs. Investments will be made equitably to serve Oregon’s children of color, who have borne a disproportionate impact of the pandemic. Combined with up to about \$75 million in federal funds, both in district matching funds and funding for the Employment-Related Day Care Program, as much as \$325 million total will be invested in summer learning and child care programs.

- \$18 million for low-barrier emergency shelters, known as navigation centers, in Eugene, Salem, Bend, Medford, McMinnville, and Roseburg. These facilities will be open seven days per week to connect homeless individuals and families with health services, permanent housing, and public benefits. More details are available [here](#).
- More than \$5 million to support wildfire-impacted communities across the state as they continue their recovery. The funding allocations were developed following 13 hours of public testimony before the House Special Committee on Wildfire Recovery, which will continue working on further legislation and funding needs for these communities.

HB 5042 passed by a 55-0 margin. Other bills in the rebalance package include HB 5040, HB 5041, SB 846, and SB 5546.

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