



## OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Governor Ted Kulongoski  
900 Court Street NE  
Room 160  
Salem, OR 97301

July 8, 2009

Ken Allen, Executive Director  
AFSCME Council 75  
6025 E. Burnside St.  
Portland, OR 97215

Leslie Frane, Executive Director  
SEIU Local 503  
1730 Commercial St SE  
Salem, OR 97309

Dear Governor Kulongoski, Executive Directors Allen and Frane:

The 75<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly has enacted a balanced budget that requires shared sacrifice on the part of all Oregonians.

The Ways and Means Committee and the rest of the Legislature worked hard to ensure that the record number of Oregonians in need of services, and the front-line workers who provide those services, do not bear the burden of the economic downturn alone.

We are proud of the legislature's accomplishment in designing a budget that will allow state government to continue to provide quality services to Oregonians who need help in their hour of need. To that end, we have provided in a specific budget note that we expect adjustments to inflation rates, lowered interagency charges, vacancy savings and savings at the management and executive level to make up at least half of the \$130 million in reductions assumed in the budget we just passed.

We believe this leaves the Executive Branch with significant flexibility in negotiating the other half of the savings: including agreements around possible wage cuts, furlough days, or by postponing or eliminating longevity (or step) payments for workers early in their careers.

We understand the limited role that the legislature plays in the collective bargaining process and that the terms and conditions of employment are negotiated between DAS and labor unions; not with the Legislature. We believe that you are working hard to seek a fair settlement that will produce savings but treat front-line workers equitably.

It is with this understanding that we urge you to reach an agreement on a contract. At this time of record demand, front-line state workers have been making sacrifices in terms of layoffs and extreme workload. The uncertainty that currently exists is good for neither the employees who provide crucial services or for the citizens who receive them.

Respectfully,

Senate President Peter Courtney

Speaker Dave Hunt