

February 2009

2009 Legislative Session

The 2009 Oregon Legislative session is under way and your attention and advocacy are needed. Money is tight, hope for improvement on education, human services to children and youth, and public safety are possible but limited.

[Read more..](#)

Your Opportunity to Become a Grassroots Advocate!

Join us for the April 16, 2009 Legislative Summit at the Salem Convention Center where we will hear from Oregon Legislative leaders, develop advocacy skills and take your grass roots message to the capitol. Registration for this event will go 'live' mid-February, so stay tuned!

Find your Oregon Representative and Senator with Oregon PTA's easy to use tool: <http://capwiz.com/npta2/or/home/> as the session and US Congress continues updates will be available.

Bill tracking from our partner OSBA can be found here: <http://www.osba.org/leginfo/bills/index.asp>

National PTA needs your help to "Take Action"

The US House has passed a stimulus package which should bring tax dollars to Oregon for education, schools and health care among other projects. The US Senate will address this package shortly and it is hoped that more than \$300 billion in aid will flow to the states.

By a solid majority, the U.S. Senate just voted to reauthorize and strengthen the Children's Health Insurance Program. When President Obama signs this into law, 4 million more children will have access to affordable health care.

In early March 2009 representatives of Oregon PTA will join other PTA leaders from across the nation in Washington DC. We will meet with the Oregon Congressional delegation and

present our legislative concerns.

To stay up to date and take action on the issues in Washington DC go to:
http://www.pta.org/take_action.asp. Learn what is
new in DC and how you can advocate on national issues.
Together with the millions of PTA members nationwide we
can make a difference.

Supreme Court Rules on School Funding Lawsuit

Three years ago, seven Oregon public school students and 18 school districts sued the State of Oregon, seeking a declaratory judgment that the Oregon Constitution requires that the legislature fund the Oregon public school system at a level sufficient to meet a quality education. They asked the court to find a Constitutional right to a quality education and to direct the legislature to pay to meet those quality education goals.

The Oregon Supreme Court issued its decision January 23, 2009 in the school funding lawsuit - Pendleton v. State of Oregon. [Read more....](#)

The full text of the ruling is at:
www.publications.ojd.state.or.us/S056096.htm

Oregon School Funding Defense Foundation
Web site: <http://www.osfdf.org>

[Register Guard "It's the legislature's job.
Courts won't force the state to fully fund schools"](#)

[The Oregonian, "Ambivalence and Oregon Schools"](#)