

We started our week with a very positive focus on community colleges as the Outstanding Student Scholars for 2007 were introduced in both the House of Representatives and the Senate chambers. Following those recognitions, the awards were handed out in the Governor's Ceremonial Office by State Board of Education Chair Jerry Berger. (Governor Kulongoski had to cancel due to his commitment to attend the funeral of another fallen soldier from Oregon. The students, their families and Presidents then had lunch at the Salem Convention Center and heard several very moving presentations about successes against the odds.

The deadline for moving bills out of substantive committees is this coming Monday so this week has been filled with a flurry of work sessions and lots of behind the scenes negotiations about revenues. Bills are being heard and, in some cases, amended but committee chairs seem to be holding on to them until the last moment. Some of the bills we have been working on we hope will fly out at the last minute. Others, of course, we hope will stay in vest pockets until after the deadline has passed.

Some of the bills that have passed out of their substantive committees have been re-referred to Ways and Means because they have a fiscal impact. At this point, we aren't supporting anything that requires money until our support fund, capital bonding and financial aid are provided. No point in chipping away at the pie until our slices have been parsed,

The next revenue forecast will be released May 15. Rumor has it that the lottery money is up but other revenues are pretty much flat. It is unlikely that we will see much movement on any revenue measures until after the forecast numbers are tallied. The new self-imposed deadline of June 30 means that the weeks between May 15 and June 30 will be a scramble with lots of late night and weekend sessions.

Please continue your contacts with all legislators. Hard copy letters work better at this point than emails because they form a visual pile in bill folders rather than a digital dot on the screen. You can find all the addresses and phone numbers for legislators at <http://www.leg.state.or.us/>. Click on the buttons at the top of the webpage for House and Senate to find alphabetical listings of all the members.

Hearings coming up next week include:

- A. SB 4 (Nursing Shortage), Senate Health Policy, Monday, April 30, 8:30 am, HR B
- B. HB 2217 (Corporate Minimum), House Education, Monday, April 30, 1 pm, HR D
- C. HB 2623 (PERS Break in Service), House Business, Monday, April 30, 3 pm, HR D