



Legislative Assembly

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
DENNIS RICHARDSON
HOUSE REPUBLICAN WHIP
STATE REPRESENTATIVE, FOURTH DISTRICT
JACKSON AND JOSEPHINE COUNTIES

May 2, 2007

HJR 13 Vote Explanation

DHS CASELOAD
FORECASTING WORKGROUP
FUJIAN SISTER STATE
COMMITTEE
GUIDELINES COMMITTEE
HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE,
VICE CHAIR
LEGISLATIVE
ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL
COMMITTEE
PAIN MANAGEMENT
COMMISSION, *EX OFFICIO*
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
CARE ACCESS, *VICE CHAIR*

I strongly favor helping our children have safe and comfortable facilities in which to be educated. Nevertheless payment of these facilities should be made a priority and paid from current revenues and not placed on the shoulders of the next generation.

My vote against House Joint Resolution 13 on May 1, 2007 was based on the following considerations:

Oregon has more than \$8.38 billion in current outstanding long-term debt, \$5 billion of which is "tax-supported" debt. This debt will require principal and interest payments for as long as 25 years and in some instances even longer. Such long-term debt is a burden not only for ourselves, but for our children as well. It is bad policy for Oregon families to live on ever increasing debt load, and it is bad policy for Oregon State government to continually increase its long term indebtedness.

In addition, the debt authorization contained in HJR 13 rewards those districts that have not allocated sufficient resources for maintaining their facilities, while penalizing those districts that have wisely maintained theirs.

Finally, HJR 13 provides for additional indebtedness that will require payments at a time when our community colleges and universities are woefully underfunded. Before Oregon incurs additional long-term indebtedness, the State should ensure our current needs are fully funded.