



GO! LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

April 14, 2011

The pressure is building in the State Capitol as the deadlines for bills approach. Last week every bill had to be scheduled for a hearing in the Chamber it originated. For example, any House bill that was still in a House Committee had to be scheduled for a hearing by April 8. Any bill not scheduled, died in committee. Out of the approximately 168 bills the DD Coalition was tracking, over 100 had initial hearings. Many fewer are expected to continue the journey to the other Chamber and actually pass. Close to 3,000 bills have been drafted this session!

The next deadline is April 21st. Any bill that has not passed out of Committee and through the originating Chamber by April 21st is considered dead. Committee agendas are long and subject to frequent change as behind the scenes deals are being made about what bills will move and what bills will die.

Legislation Update

SB 555 – Autism Insurance Mandate is expected to have a work session in the Senate Health Care, Human Services, and Rural Health Policy Committee on April 18th. A number of amendments have been submitted and hopefully the bill will move to Ways and Means.

HB 2296 – This bill would place the Burden of Proof in educational legal proceedings on the school districts instead of on families. The bill is strongly opposed by schools and the education lobby. It passed out of the House Education Committee on Friday and is headed to the House floor. A vote is expected any day. Check the DD Coalition website for the [fact sheet](#) on this issue and urge your House member to vote in support of HB 2296.

HB 2600 – This is the bill that would put the Adult Support Services (Staley Agreement) into statute. The bill passed out of Committee and was referred to Ways and Means. We are hoping to get the bill out of Ways and Means in early April.

HB 3434 - This is the bill that would allow a one time only tapping of the Fairview Trust. The bill died in Committee because no one wanted to actually take a vote to take money from the Trust. However, the issue is not over and the Ways and Means Committee can include a tapping of the Trust in a large program change budget bill. Stay tuned!

HB 2939 - Seclusion and Restraint legislation has passed the House Education Committee on April 6 and is headed to the House floor. This is a very important piece of legislation for children who experience disability in Oregon! Urge your legislators to support HB 2939.

Budget

This week the Education budget passed both the House and Senate and awaits the Governor's signature. The \$5.7 billion budget will not meet the current service level needs of schools and there will continue to be efforts to force legislators to dip into the large ending budget balance that has been set aside for ongoing state fiscal problems.

The Co-Chairs of Ways and Means have still not publically shared their recommendations for program funding. DD Advocates continue to focus advocacy on the Governor's proposed budget [reductions](#).

Ways and Means Community Hearings

As in previous years, the Ways and Means Committee will be traveling the state to hear from Oregon citizens. The focus of the hearings will be the proposed budget reductions. We do not yet know the locations and format for the sessions. Obviously, it will be important for the DD community to be there and be visible. We will provide more information as soon as it becomes available. It will be important to arrive early. Mark your calendars for the dates, times and locations below.

Tuesday, April 19 Portland (PCC Sylvania) 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Friday, April 22 Medford (TBA) 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Friday, April 29 Bend (TBA) 4:00 - 6:00 pm

Friday, May 6 Newport (TBA) 4:00 - 6:00 pm

Oregon Legislature in Action

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oi0f6vsbOEQ>

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