

NW NEWS IN BRIEFS

budget in the short.

In a press release issued in December, Kaplan explained that while no one wants more taxation, "failure to ensure addressing the needs of the most vulnerable today is not a plan for savings, but simply deferment of greater expenses."

"It is for these reasons that Cascade AIDS Project is signing on in support of Measures 66 and 67," wrote Kaplan. "Should these measures fail, we will be looking at drastic cuts to a broad net of services that our communities and our clients rely on. From health care to education, and reproductive health to mental health—we cannot allow today's economic challenges to undermine the health of our citizens, our neighbors, and our families."

The decision to publicly back the approval of increasing taxes on the very organizations and individuals who support CAP, Kaplan continued, was not an easy decision.

"To be clear, this is not about punishing those who do well, be they corporate or individual, as we are quite aware how the generosity of many corporations and individuals throughout the state makes our work possible. This is about guaranteeing that the care of our most vulnerable citizens is not left to the generosity of well-off citizens and corporations alone, but rather that, through public policy, we ensure services exist where needed."

The Oregon Small Business Council has also come out publicly to endorse a "yes" vote on Measures 66 and 67, citing "the importance of preserving essential services and the soft impact the measures have on small business."

"These measures are necessary footholds to maintain vital services in tough times," said OSBC Board Chair Mark Kellenbeck of Cascade Management in Grants Pass via press release. "Small businesses will be minimally impacted while more dollars spent will remain in Oregon."

Ballots for Oregon's Special Election will be mailed to registered voters between January 8 and 12. Ballots must be returned to your county elections office by 8 p.m. January 26.

National No-Name Calling Week January 25-29

Students from across the state and the country will unite under a common banner of non-discrimination January 25-29 during National No Name-Calling Week.

The No Name-Calling Week Coalition was created by the national Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) and Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing in 2004, and consists of over 40 national partner organizations. The project focuses national attention on the problem of name-calling in schools, and to provide students and educators with the tools and inspiration for an ongoing dialogue about



Join GLSEN and students from across the country January 25-29 for National No Name-Calling Week.

ways to eliminate name-calling in their communities.

Despite the efforts of GLSEN and the over 100 active Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs) in Oregon, nationwide instances of discrimination in schools persist. Per statistics in GLSEN's 2007 National School Climate Survey, percentages of students nationwide reported that hostile school climates (73.6 percent hear homophobic remarks); absenteeism (31.7 percent missed a class because they felt unsafe; 32.7 percent missed a day); and an epidemic of lowered educational aspirations following high school (12.4 percent of gay, lesbian, bi and trans students, compared to 6.6 percent of straight students) were ruining their educational experience.

No Name-Calling Week has been traditionally observed in middle and elementary schools with lesson plans developed in partnership with the National Association of Elementary School Principals. This year, a high school lesson and short-film category have been added to the Creative Expression Contest, which will focus on anti-gay, lesbian, bi and trans name-calling and bullying.

For more information, visit www.nonamecallingweek.org.

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