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Statement from President Gardiner on March General Revenue Estimate, 2015-16 Budget

Tallahassee, FL - Senate President Andy Gardiner (R-Orlando) today released the following statement regarding the March 2015 General Revenue Estimate and the Senate's progress towards producing the Fiscal Year 2015-16 General Appropriations Act.

“As we head towards the third week of session, we are now well into the process of writing our budget. Our subcommittees are working to release their draft proposals early next week, and Chair Lee is prepared to bring the budget to the Senate floor prior to the Easter and Passover holidays.

“Our appropriations chairs and their committee staff work on the budget all year long, but this is the week where we have to put pen to paper. When faced with that reality, any increase in General Revenue, no matter how modest, is positive news.

“As we move forward, I remain deeply concerned with the uncertainty surrounding health care funding and the impact both federal and state policy decisions will have on what is the largest component of our budget.

“My goal is for the Senate to produce a budget that appropriately reflects the stark reality of our present situation. To accommodate the current uncertainty, we will have to reevaluate many of our goals and priorities. With seven weeks to go, I am hopeful Tallahassee and Washington can reach a solution that will allow our state to utilize increases in General Revenue to advance important policy goals in areas like education, tax relief and water and natural resources, rather than to make up for lost federal funding; however, I will not ask Senators to vote on a budget that includes promises of substantial funding we may not be able to keep.”

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