You are currently viewing the printable version of this article, to return to the normal page, please click here.

Oregon lawmakers deny funding for community college security

By - Associated Press - Wednesday, March 9, 2016

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) - Lawmakers rejected a $17.6 million request to increase security at community colleges in Oregon months after a gunman killed nine people and himself at one of the schools in the state's worst mass shooting.

The proposal would have replaced doors, added security cameras and beefed up aging buildings and communications systems at most of the state's community colleges, The Oregonian reported Wednesday (http://bit.ly/1p8oNTe ).

Lawmakers approved $6 million for improvements at Umpqua Community College's Snyder Hall, where the shooting took place in October. The money also will fund overall safety and security measures at the school.

But lawmakers told Oregon's other 16 community colleges to try again in 2017.

Brent Finkbeiner, president of the Clackamas Community College student government, said the rejection stung.

"Waiting until next year doesn't do us any good," said Finkbeiner, who is also the board chairman of the Oregon Community College Student Association.

Clackamas Community College was hoping for more than $1.6 million for several projects, including installing electronic locks across campus.

Not everyone is disappointed by the delay in funding.

The 2017 discussion should be "more robust," said Andrea Henderson, executive director of the Oregon Community College Association. The conversation about campus security is "far from over," she said.
"It's still not that far away from October 1," she said, referring to last year's shooting, "and we're still learning from that incident."

Information from: The Oregonian, http://www.oregonlive.com

Copyright 2016 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.