



# Washington State Auditor's Office

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## Deputy State Auditor Jutte on proposed budget cuts

**OLYMPIA** – Deputy State Auditor Jan Jutte issued the following statement regarding the supplemental budget proposed by the state Senate today, which would sweep \$10 million from the I-900 Performance Audits of Government Account, in addition to the \$12.6 million moved from the account in the current budget.

“Sadly, I don’t think those who support diverting money the voters dedicated to government accountability fully understand the difference our Office makes for Washington. Certainly any legislator demeaning our Office as ineffective, or worse, a ‘laughingstock,’ demonstrates a misunderstanding of our work and disrespects our 400-some professional staff members, who produce more than 2,200 audits a year,” Jutte said.

“I again ask legislators to preserve a program that makes public services more effective; but I am not optimistic their course will change. We are reviewing what government accountability work would have to be halted to accommodate the significant budget cuts we anticipate. Preserving our independence as auditors means that review must include reconsidering the many performance audits that the Legislature itself has directed us to perform, on topics from medical schools to alternative education to public records.”