



Hundreds plead with lawmakers to keep budget axe away

by Patrick Terpstra, 13News

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PORTSMOUTH -- Parents of murdered children joined brain injury survivors, home-care providers and elected sheriffs to bring the same message to state lawmakers today: Don't cut funding for vital state services.

Local senators and delegates who will craft the state's biennial budget this year held a public forum at [Tidewater Community College](#) in Portsmouth.

Gov. Tim Kaine proposed another round of deep cuts this year to close a \$3.6 billion shortfall.

The state is not legally able to run a deficit and Gov-elect Bob McDonnell has said he will not support tax increases.

Speakers at the forum painted bleak pictures of what will happen if deep cuts are imposed.

"There will be more victims on streets and more injuries to officers," Virginia Beach Sheriff Ken Stolle told the panel.

The 2010 legislative session starts Wednesday, Jan. 13.