



## State Senator Kayse Jama

Senate District 24 (D-East Portland)

Native land of Multnomah, Wasco, Cowlitz, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Bands of Chinook, Tualatin Kalapuya, Molalla, and many other tribes that made their homes along the Columbia and Willamette Rivers

### FACTSHEET

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### State Senator Kayse Jama's Legislative Accomplishments in the 2022 Session

Last Friday, the legislature ended its 2022 regular session after passing historic legislation promoting access and equity in public education, supporting healthy communities across Oregon, strengthening workforce protections and advancing Oregonian's economy, supporting immigrant and refugee communities, encouraging sustainability, and improving public safety by addressing issues in the criminal justice system.

State Senator Kayse Jama (D-Portland) played a critical role in the introduction and the passage of much of the groundbreaking legislation passed during the February session. His 2022 accomplishments include:

1. Investing \$400M to support homeownership, increase affordable housing and address houselessness (**HB 5202**)
2. Ensuring renters rights and access to cooling while preparing Oregon for the next heat wave (**SB 1536**)
3. Establishing universal legal representation in immigration proceedings (**SB 1543**)
4. Reducing racial disparities in traffic stops and creating the Justice Reinvestment Equity Program (**SB 1510**)
5. Extending basic worker protections and ensuring fair compensation for farm workers (**HB 4002**)
6. Strengthening workforce protections and worker injury compensation (**HB 4138 and SB 1513**)
7. Funding wealth building opportunities for economically marginalized communities (**SB 1579**)
8. Updating racist and xenophobic immigration terminology in Oregon state laws (**SB 1560**)
9. Providing compensation for wrongly convicted persons (**SB 1584**)
10. Expanding in-state tuition eligibility for Afghan refugees (**SB 1522**)

#### Staff Acknowledgement:

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## **1. Supporting homeownership, increasing affordable housing and addressing houselessness (HB 5202)**

There is a critical need for services and assistance right now in Oregon. Over the last few years, the state has begun stepping up funding to address this issue. Social safety net organizations have increased capacity and, despite serious challenges, risen to meet the new need caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and associated economic issues. State and local governments must continue to make investments in affordable housing, tenant stabilization, and services for people experiencing houselessness. **Priorities include:**

- Addressing immediate needs around houselessness.
- Building on investments to increase the supply of affordable housing.
- Keeping people in affordable homes and preventing displacement.
- Ensuring that funds can be spent quickly and efficiently.

### **a. Addressing Houselessness (\$165M)**

- \$80M Address the immediate houseless needs statewide.
- \$50M Fund Project Turnkey 2.0 for the acquisition of hotels to convert into sources of shelter.
- \$25M Provide grants for shelter, hygiene needs, and outreach to people experiencing houseless.
- \$8M Support the coordinated regional responses to houseless across the state (**HB 4123**)
- \$1.2M Provide services and tuition help for unhoused youth (**HB 4013**)
- \$0.5M Support data-driven policy-making in local governments and improve coordination.

### **b. Building and Preserving Affordable Housing (\$215M)**

- \$65M Keep housing affordable for families in supported units, preventing displacement.
- \$55M Invest in building new affordable homes to rent and buy.
- \$50M Support affordable housing construction projects struggling with supply chain disruptions.
- \$35M Acquire manufactured housing parks to keep them affordable.
- \$10M Support land acquisition for affordable housing projects.

### **c. Supporting Homeownership (\$20M)**

- \$15M Increase capacity for nonprofits that help families navigate the homebuying process.
- \$5M Launch a home loan program to help first-time home-buyers to make down payments.

## **2. Ensuring renters rights and access to cooling while preparing for the next heat wave (SB 1536)**

In the summer of 2021, Oregon experienced a record heatwave, the second worst natural disaster in our state's recorded history. Many people were made more vulnerable because they did not have access to life-saving, cooling technologies like air conditioning and heat pumps. Most people who passed away are seniors, people with disabilities, or people with underlying medical conditions, especially those living in upper-level multifamily units or manufactured homes. To help protect more families, we must remove barriers to installing these appliances and incentivize the most efficient and effective devices.

SB 1536 establishes five programs and provides dedicated one-time General Fund appropriations for each, totaling \$34.5 million across three agencies, to establish grant or rebate programs to address extreme heat.

- \$5M Air conditioner and air filter deployment program at Oregon Health Authority.
- \$2M Warming and cooling shelters or grant program at Oregon Department of Human Services.
- \$2M Cooling places grant program at Department of Energy.
- \$10M Heat pump deployment program at Department of Energy.
- \$15M Residential heat pump rebate and grant program at Department of Energy.
- \$0.5M Study on cooling for public assistance housing, RV parks or manufactured home parks.

### **3. Establishing universal legal representation in immigration proceedings (SB 1543)**

Unlike in criminal court, undocumented immigrants facing deportation in civil immigration court are not guaranteed access to an attorney. Access to an attorney is one of the most important factors into determining whether an immigrant will defeat their unjust deportation. Deportation destabilizes families, disrupts the economy, reduces high school graduation rates, and increases our reliance on social welfare programs.

SB 1543 funds a statewide, integrated, universal navigation and representation system for immigration matters. The measure requires an established nonprofit to serve as a fiscal agent to receive moneys from the fund and to award grants to organizations to provide services related to immigration matters.

- \$10.5M to the Department of Admin. Services to distribute to the Oregon Worker Relief Fund.
- \$4.5M to the Judicial Department to distribute to the Oregon State Bar's Legal Services Program.

### **4. Reducing racial disparities in traffic stops and creating the JRE Program (SB 1510)**

Traffic stops are the most frequent manner in which law enforcement interacts with the public.<sup>1</sup> In 2018 over 25 million Americans had contact with law enforcement as either the driver or passenger during a traffic stop.<sup>2</sup> While the prevention of unsafe driving (excessive speeding, driving under the influence, etc.) presents a need for traffic enforcement, unnecessary interactions with law enforcement increase tension and mistrust among Black, Indigenous, and communities of color.

SB 1510 limits unnecessary traffic stops and arrests by prohibiting law enforcement officers from initiating traffic stops based solely on certain minor traffic violations and requires them to inform people of their right to refuse consent to a search. The bill also removes barriers for people on probation or on post-prison supervision seeking to rebuild their lives and invests \$10 million in culturally specific organizations and culturally responsive service providers as part of the Justice Reinvestment Equity Program. Lastly, SB 1510 requires parole and probation officers to receive continuing education on trauma-informed care, culturally specific services, and de-escalation tactics.

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<sup>1</sup> RAND. "Stop, Start, or Continue? A National Survey of the Police About Traffic Stops." *RAND Blog*, 30 June 2021, [www.rand.org/blog/2021/06/stop-start-or-continue-a-national-survey-of-the-police.html](http://www.rand.org/blog/2021/06/stop-start-or-continue-a-national-survey-of-the-police.html).

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Justice. "Contacts Between Police and the Public, 2018 – Statistical Tables." *Office of Justice Programs*, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Dec. 2020, [bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/cbpps18st.pdf](https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/cbpps18st.pdf).

## **5. Extending basic worker protections and ensuring fair compensation for farm workers (HB 4002)**

Farmworkers in Oregon do not have the same overtime benefits as workers in other industries. They are doing important, hard, and dangerous work in one of the largest sectors of our state's economy and have worked to feed Oregon families through a pandemic, catastrophic fires, hazardous air quality levels, and dangerous heat waves. Many acknowledge that farmworkers are "essential workers," but they are unfairly excluded from receiving benefits they have earned.

Farm workers deserve to be paid for every hour of their essential, difficult, and often dangerous work. And yet, in 2020, while working through wildfires and ice storms, Oregon farmworkers made, on average, less than \$20,000 a year.<sup>3</sup> They deserve equal pay and the opportunity for a safe, healthy work schedule just like everyone else. Through this multi-year phased-in plan highlighted in HB 4002, farmworkers will finally receive the pay they deserve through passage of this bill.

## **6. Strengthening workforce protections and worker injury compensation (HB 4138, SB 1513)**

### **a. Strengthen workers compensation and help injured workers rebuild lives - HB 4138**

When injured workers are unable to work, they rely on worker compensation benefits to replace their wages, and to compensate them for a permanent loss of physical capacity. However, when the insurers announce an overpayment that accrued through no fault of the worker, and suddenly begins to claw back benefits, the worker has very limited ability to challenge or plan for those changes under the current system.

HB 4138 requires insurers to notify injured workers when the temporary payments are ending, provides an exception to the backdating restriction for periods where the claim is in litigation, protects workers when doctors create an overpayment of temporary payments by backdating the date the worker reached maximum improvement, and ensures workers get notice of problems with their benefit payments so they can obtain both temporary disability payments and permanent disability payments in a timely and accurate fashion.

### **b. Protect bakery workers from unfair workplace practices - SB 1513**

Dozens of workers have shared their routine experience of working their 8 hour shift, and then being asked to work an additional 5 hours as they are clocking out, as they are in the parking lot, or in the car going to pick up their kids. If the worker declines the overtime shift, they face harsh discipline and, too often, the threat of termination.

Senate Bill 1513 adds a new prohibition for employers in the bakery or tortilla manufacturing sector. Employers in this sector may not take an adverse employment action against an employee who refuses to work a mandatory overtime shift without at least five days advance notice that includes the date and time of the shift. The measure provides that an employer's penalty against an employee who refuses an unexpected overtime shift is an unlawful practice subject to enforcement by the BOLI Commissioner.

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<sup>3</sup> "Farmworkers are Critical to Oregon's Economic Well Being." *Fair Shot for All*, [www.fairshotoregon.org/farmworkervertime](http://www.fairshotoregon.org/farmworkervertime). Accessed 15 Feb. 2022.

## **7. Funding wealth building opportunities for economically marginalized communities (SB 1579)**

Business Oregon is our state's economic development agency. According to its Strategic Plan, most minority groups in Oregon are growing in their population, yet significant disparities exist. About 11% of Oregon firms are minority-owned, compared to 18% nationally. Household income and wages are lowest for Oregon's African American, Native American, and Hispanic communities. These groups are also disadvantaged in their access to capital and are underrepresented in employment within the professional and technical services sectors.

Senate Bill 1579 appropriates \$15 millions and directs Business Oregon to implement an Economic Equity Investment Program to award grants to qualified organizations that provide culturally responsive services to disadvantaged individuals, families, businesses, and communities. These community organizations must have an intimate knowledge of the lived experiences of and have a founding mission aligned with the culture of communities they are serving.

## **8. Updating racist and xenophobic immigration terminology in Oregon state laws (SB 1560)**

Immigrants and refugees arriving in Oregon and the greater United States in search of safe haven from conflict or for greater opportunity, are subjected to the dehumanizing experience of being classified as an "alien" under the federal and state law. This terminology stems from bigotry and xenophobia and allows individuals to express bigotry without using overt racist language.

SB 1560 revises existing state law and directs state agencies to refer to individuals, who are not citizens of the United States, using the word "non-citizen" instead of the word "alien" in rules and regulations. Moreover, the bill will make only non-substantive changes to current law and will not affect people's eligibility for federal programs or benefits that are available to a person who meets the definition of "alien" under state or federal law.

## **9. Providing compensation for wrongly convicted persons (SB 1584)**

Oregon is one of only 13 states that does not compensate wrongfully convicted people.<sup>4</sup> Wrongful convictions have dramatically impacted the lives of innocent people in Oregon. Upon release, wrongfully convicted Oregonians face a number of immediate financial challenges that impact their ability to survive after wrongful incarceration, including housing, transportation, health services and insurance, mental health treatment, and other basic needs; years of lost income and inability to save for retirement while imprisoned; and missed educational and career opportunities. Some continue to struggle with a criminal conviction on their record, despite their innocence.

SB 1584 provides \$65,000 per year for wrongful imprisonment, plus up to \$25,000 per year wrongfully spent on parole, in post-prison supervision, or on the sex offender registry. It also provides access to

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<sup>4</sup> "Oregon Exonerees Deserve Compensation." The Innocence Project, [innocenceproject.org/petitions/oregon-compensation/#:~:text=More%20than%2020%20innocent%20Oregonians,justice%20for%20the%20wrongfully%20convicted](https://innocenceproject.org/petitions/oregon-compensation/#:~:text=More%20than%2020%20innocent%20Oregonians,justice%20for%20the%20wrongfully%20convicted). Accessed 15 Feb. 2022.

non-monetary services including counseling, housing assistance, and personal financial literacy assistance. Lastly, SB 1584 seals records associated with the wrongful arrest and conviction, and provides exonerees a certificate of innocence to clear their names and move on with their lives.

## **10. Expanding in-state tuition eligibility for Afghan refugees (SB 1522)**

In 2021, the Oregon legislature passed Senate Bill 553, which provides that students from Compact of Free Association (COFA) island nations, refugees, and special immigrant visa holders be eligible for exemption from nonresident tuition and fees at public universities, and are eligible to receive state and university scholarships or other financial aid.<sup>5</sup> Those arriving from Afghanistan as conditional permanent residents or humanitarian parolees, and those who are under asylum or temporary protected status are currently not covered under Senate Bill 553. Included in SB 1522 is the expansion of the eligibility.

### **\*\*\* Additional legislations that Senator Jama was a proud sponsor of and voted for \*\*\***

1. Investing \$100M to help increase access and decrease the cost of childcare in Oregon **(HB 4005)**
2. Investing \$200M in career pathways in health care, manufacturing and construction sectors **(SB 1545)**
3. Investing \$300M to address the staffing crisis and create summer learning opportunities **(SB 5202)**
4. Investing \$132M to strengthen behavioral health workforce and mental health services **(HB 4004)**
  
5. Providing one-time relief payments of \$600 to more than 240,000 low-wage workers **(HB 4157)**
6. Investing \$4M to increase outreach to help working families access tax relief through EITC **(HB 4117)**
7. Ensuring that that workers are not silenced after they have experienced harassment on the job **(SB 1586)**
  
8. Investing \$7M in wildlife road crossing infrastructure to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions **(HB 4130)**
9. Creating the Elliott State Research Forest and ensuring public ownership and conservation gains **(SB 1546)**
10. Supporting seismic planning at oil and liquid fuel terminals in the events of earthquake **(SB 1567)**
11. Establishing the Environmental Justice Council to develop an environmental justice mapping tool **(HB 4077)**
  
12. Adding \$5M to the African American/Black Student Success Plan **(SB 5202)**
13. Directing Oregon Education Department to create the Pacific Islander Student Success Plan **(HB 4091)**
14. Creating a Tribal Relations Liaison at the Oregon State Police for better coordination **(HB 4102)**
15. Requiring participating state agencies to meet with the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission and report on their progress of the commission's addiction, prevention, treatment and recovery plan **(HB 4098)**

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**About State Senator Kayse Jama:** Senator Jama represents Senate District 24 (East Portland and North Clackamas) and serves as the chair of the Senate Committee On Housing and Development, and the Legislature's Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) Caucus. He was the first former refugee, Muslim, and Somali-American to serve in the Oregon State Senate. Before his appointment, Sen. Jama was a prominent community organizer and Executive Director of Unite Oregon.

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<sup>5</sup> "Senate Bill 553." Oregon Legislative Assembly, [olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Measures/Overview/SB553](https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Measures/Overview/SB553).