



State Representative  
**Phil Barnhart**



*Signing Ceremony for  
Small Business Bill of  
Rights*

*Greetings,*

*Session has ended, but the work continues. Now we prepare for interim committees. I expect that a good share of the Revenue Committee's interim work will be reviewing the effectiveness of the Oregon income tax credits. Some of these tax have not had a proper review since the 70's when they were created. We want to make sure these tax credits have their intended impact, and if they don't then figure out what changes need to be made to make them effective or let them expire if they are unnecessary. This is part of the process to make sure your tax dollars are used effectively and efficiently.*

*We are back down in the District Office now that session has ended. You can continue to reach me by email at [rep.philbarnhart@state.or.us](mailto:rep.philbarnhart@state.or.us), but to reach myself and my staff by phone please call 541-607-9207. Lastly we have set up a survey so you can easily provide us with your feedback on work this session. Click [here](#) to take the survey.*

*We look forward to hearing from you!*

*Phil*

**News and Updates**

**House Democrats Road Map**

Before each session the House Democrats get

**Legislative Report**

Health care in the United States is broken. Oregon is taking the lead in reform efforts. An ideal health care system would provide access to appropriate, life saving and preventative care for all children and

together to figure out what we should work to accomplish. Out of that we develop our Road Map. This was a tough session but we were able to accomplish many goals we set out to achieve. Check out the accomplished Road Map objectives [here](#).

### **Revenue Package Facts**

Governor signed HB 3405 and HB 2649 on Monday July 20th.

We tightened our belts, made taxpayer dollars go further and took bold steps necessary to protect the middle class, children, seniors and core state services.

Over 60% of big corporations pay only \$10 in taxes each year, a corporate minimum that has not been changed since 1931.

To preserve vital services and make our tax system fairer, we are asking big corporations and households making over \$250,000 a year to contribute their fair share.

This plan protects small

adults, reward preventative measures, have low administrative costs, be transparent, and the results would be easily measured. House Bills 2009 and 2116 take Oregon a step closer to that system and are designed to work hand in hand with the proposed health care reform being developed in Washington D.C. Summarizing two bills with roughly 70 hours of public hearings and totaling over 600 pages is no short order. In a nut shell the legislature approved House Bills 2009 and 2116 to cover 95% of all Oregon children, create jobs, bring a billion dollars in federal matching funds to Oregon, streamline government, reduce costs, and improve health outcomes.

Before you can fix something you have to know what is broken. House Bills 2009 and 2116 reflect the recommendations of the Oregon Health Fund Board, which was created in 2007 to identify our state's health care problems and develop a plan to solve them. They found that the most pressing areas of concern were access to quality health care and unrestrained cost increases. Every year the average family pays between \$10,000 and \$15,000 for health insurance, \$1,000 of which goes to covering the uninsured. In Oregon we have over 600,000 uninsured residents whose primary access to health care is through the emergency room, the most expensive level of care. Since the uninsured often cannot pay, the costs are passed on to individual rate payers in the form of higher prices. HB 2116 tackles this problem head on by bringing in \$2 billion in federal matching funds over the next 4 years to cover 85,000 additional kids and 35,000 additional low-income adults. Covering more people should reduce the amount of emergency room care needed, as the focus changes from reactionary treatment in the ER to preventative on going care with a family doctor. Over time, this should lead to lower costs and more effective care for everyone.

businesses and middle class families.

### **High Speed Rail**

Oregon Department of Transportation is competing for \$2.1 billion grant to develop high speed rail and create tens of thousands of jobs. Read more [here](#).

### **Update on H1N1 Flu**

In Oregon there are now 530 confirmed cases an increase of 60 over the last week. On August 21st the Governor will host an H1N1 Influenza Preparedness Summit. Businesses, agencies, and schools are encouraged to create their own preparedness strategies. To register for the summit and for the latest visit:

<http://www.flu.oregon.gov/>

HB 2009 was developed with input from stakeholders, Oregon's hospitals, other health care providers, insurers, and citizens. The bill creates an Oregon Health Authority to bring all areas of state provided health care coverage under one agency and eliminate patchwork health policy. A nine member board will return by 2015 with a plan to give access to affordable quality health care to all Oregonians, establish cost containment mechanisms, and make sure supply is sufficient to meet demand.

Furthermore they are authorized to develop a database to reduce, monitor, and evaluate costs and outcomes. Simplifying insurance paperwork and giving consumers tools to make better health care decisions benefits all Oregonians.

HB 2009 and 2116 will create an estimated 3,600 new private sector health care jobs and save tax payer dollars by pooling public buying power to leverage better prices through the development of a public employer purchasing collaborative. Measures taken are estimated to save the system over \$6 billion in 10 years. Redirecting a 3,000 ton train moving at 90 miles an hour takes a great deal of force and a gradual adjustment over time. Similarly, turning around our out of control health care system will take hard work and time. These bills are a major push in the right direction.