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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 5, 2013

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Senate Adopts Measure to Combat Number of Oregonians Driving With Suspended Licenses

SALEM – Legislation to help combat potentially dangerous drivers on Oregon’s roads was unanimously adopted by the State Senate today. [House Bill 2384](#) gives police agencies the option to seize a vehicle for possible forfeiture if it’s driven by an offender convicted of criminal or aggravated Driving While Suspended (DWS- Oregon Revised Statutes 811.182 and 163.196) over the past three years.

“We’re talking about offenders convicted of things like manslaughter, Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants, reckless endangerment, and other serious crimes,” said **Senator [Floyd Prozanski \(D-South Lane and North Douglas counties\)](#)**. “When they continue to get behind the wheel with a suspended license, they continue to put the public at risk.”

“The number of people Driving While Suspended is a big problem in Oregon,” explained **State Representative [Kim Thatcher \(R-Keizer, Newberg and St. Paul\)](#)**, one of the chief sponsors of the measure. “This legislation is a good first start, targeting a narrow group of the most serious offenders.” According to ODOT, around 185,000 Oregonians had their licenses suspended or revoked last year. An estimated 1,350 of them might have been subject to this new law if it had been in place in 2012.

She was asked by a constituent from her legislative district to help police officers who felt current state law limited their ability to stop these people from driving. “I am excited at the passage of House Bill 2384,” said **Sergeant William Gill, who works for the Hubbard Police Department and lives in Keizer**. “This will provide law enforcement with a much needed and valuable tool to get serial DWS drivers off the road. This bill goes a long way toward solving a problem that has long plagued Oregon highways and will make the roads safer for all of us.”

Thatcher joined forces with **State Representative [Phil Barnhart \(D-Central Lane and Linn counties\)](#)** who had a similar constituent concern. “Safety on our roads will improve when these dangerous drivers lose their cars as a result of this bill,” added Barnhart. “It is hard to drive dangerously without a vehicle. This bill will help get dangerous and uninsured drivers off the roads.”

HB 2384 was backed by the [Oregon State Sheriff’s Association](#), the [Oregon Association Chiefs of Police](#), the [Oregon District Attorneys Association](#), the [Oregon Anti-Crime Alliance](#), and the [Governor’s Advisory Committee on DUII](#).

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