



Office of Representative Farrah Chaichi

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## **Representative Farrah Chaichi Announces Priorities For 2024 Short Session**

**SALEM, Ore.**-Rep. Farrah Chaichi (D-Aloha, Beaverton & Hillsboro) is in Salem for the 2024 legislative session with a focus on priorities that impact Beaverton and Aloha: access to opportunity through Higher Education; giving local jurisdictions freedom to access the tools they need to address the housing crisis in their own communities; improving access to culturally responsive and affordable healthcare; and supporting newcomers to Oregon.

As a lifelong Beavertonian and the child of an immigrant, Chaichi is a staunch believer in the power of education to increase opportunity and believes in the importance of supporting new Oregonians to ensure that they can thrive in their communities statewide.

### *Access to Opportunity Through Higher Education*

Chaichi's priority legislation for the Short Session centers around improving higher education.

"Higher education by its very nature is rooted in community and mentorship. Whether through the GI bill after World War II or in our current moment, higher education is an investment in our future - and an investment in our society. I believe in the power of Higher Education to elevate individuals and communities around Oregon," said Chaichi as she introduced [House Bill 4125](#), which takes a deeper look at how our public Universities are faring and where we need to make strategic investments.

The study aims to assess important aspects of our Public University ecosystem and identify areas for smart investments and iterative improvements that uplift Oregon's higher education students, instructors, staff, and universities.

As a lifelong Beavertonian and the child of an immigrant, Chaichi knows the power of education to increase opportunity and believes in the importance of supporting new Oregonians to ensure that they

can thrive in their communities statewide. Access to education is a critical component of setting up new Oregonians for success, which is why Rep. Chaichi has co-sponsored [Senate Bill 1532](#), that directs the Department of Education to create a statewide education plan, for students who are asylum seekers, refugees or immigrants.

#### *Addressing Housing Affordability Crisis*

With rent increases continuing to create hardship for families in her district and around the state, Chaichi has also introduced [House Bill 4126](#), which would give local leaders the freedom to make decisions about how to best address the ongoing housing crisis in their communities. Chaichi is committed to ensuring that all Oregonians have access to safe, affordable housing and continuing the ongoing conversation about local rent control prohibitions in Oregon.

#### *Making Healthcare More Affordable and More Accessible*

Oregon has made significant improvements to our healthcare system to date, yet many Oregonians are still without access to culturally responsive and affordable care. Rep. Chaichi has co-sponsored a pair of bills to improve access to culturally responsive and affordable healthcare. [Senate Bill 1578](#) will connect patients and providers with language interpreters to ensure that all Oregonians are able to receive adequate and accurate medical care. [House Bill 4130](#) will close existing loopholes in the law to prohibit the corporate takeover of healthcare clinics and ensure that the power to lead clinics remains with licensed, independent practitioners, not corporations and private equity firms.

Chaichi also plans to support policies that address the root causes of the challenges we face and recognizes that these issues disproportionately impact low-income families, small businesses, veterans, and communities of color. That means investing in our future, by addressing poverty and fighting for the working class.

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