

Paul L Evans
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 20



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Dear Neighbors,

The final gavel of the 78th Legislative Session came down at 6:04 p.m. on July 6th 2015. I am happy to inform you about some of the amazing things that have been going on in our community and in the State Legislature. During this session, I have worked across the aisle with my Republican Colleagues in both Chambers building relationships with other legislators to support and pass important legislation relating to a variety of issues. The following links highlight some of our accomplishments. For a more accessible navigation experience, click one of the following links to navigate to a topic of interest:
[Veterans](#), [Prioritizing Our Children's Future](#), [Small Businesses](#), [Overcoming Bipartisanship](#), [Community Events](#), [What's Ahead](#), and [Upcoming Events](#).

Veterans

As a veteran, I am proud of the work we were able to accomplish this month to assist those who have sacrificed so much for us. I had the unprecedented honor of carrying the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs budget as a freshman Representative.

I also was a Chief Sponsor of HB 2838, which passed both chambers unanimously. The bill established a Task Force to study incarcerated veterans and develop a program to assist in their rehabilitation and to pinpoint and prevent the causes for incarceration.

This month the legislature also passed HB 3303 which prioritizes business owned by disabled veterans in the procurement process with state agencies. The legislature also passed HB 2892 which requires that the National League of Families' POW/MIA flag be displayed with the Oregon State flag on public buildings throughout the state starting on January 1st 2016. This bill honors the 85,000 American servicemen and women that are still missing, and serves as a constant reminder that our freedom comes at a cost.

I also had the solemn pride of carrying a Resolution honoring Army Specialist Nicholas Welch. Specialist Welch was killed during his first tour of duty in Afghanistan. I would like to thank his family for their sacrifice and for reaching out to the legislature which allowed us to permanently honor his memory.



HB 2892 Ceremonial Signing in the Governor's Office



A group from the MI YMCA visiting the Capitol

Prioritizing Our Children's Future

Another pillar of my platform was to prioritize our children's future, and I am proud of the hard fought victories that we won this month.

The legislature passed HB 2545 which will allow School districts to provide free lunch to students who already qualify for reduced price lunches. The state will reimburse the district for the amount that students would have been required to pay. This will ensure all children will have the opportunity to come to school well-nourished and ready to learn.

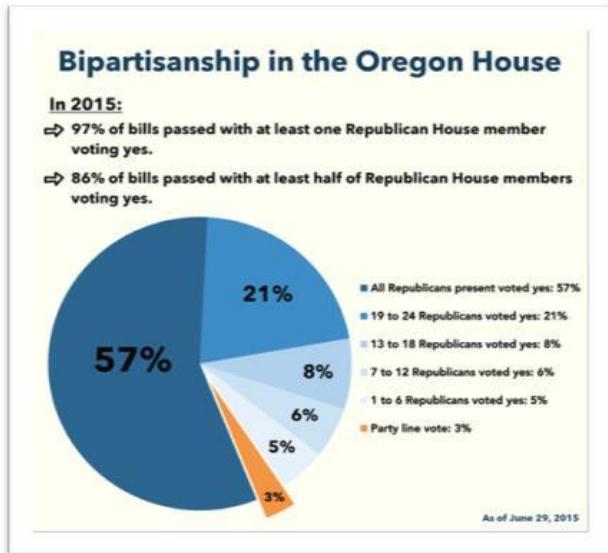
The legislature addressed crowded classrooms by passing HB 2928. This bill established a Task Force on class sizes to determine appropriate class sizes of students and to identify methods of cost effective ways to reduce the size of classes throughout the state.

On the last day of session the legislature passed HB 2015 which aims to help mitigate the cost of childcare, another serious issue for working parents in District 20. As many know, the cost of daycare and similar programs can be prohibitively expensive for many parents, but with the passage of this bill there will be subsidies introduced to reduce cost. Additional studies will investigate and propose future solutions to fund quality affordable childcare.

Child safety advocates also won two major victories this past month with the passing of SB 478 B and HB 2931 B. Known as the "Toxic Free Kids Act," SB 478 B requires children's product manufacturers to notify state health officials when their toys contain hazardous materials and replace them within six years. SB 478 B creates a process for checking Oregon schools for Radon, which is the second-leading cause of lung cancer.

Small Businesses

In my continued support for our small businesses and our thriving agricultural community I was happy to vote for SB 341 which protects the growing agri-tourism industry from injury liability when guests are on their property. Protecting agri-tourism will help safeguard small family farms and promote tourism in the Mid-Willamette Valley. I also voted for a bill creating the Oregon Retirement Savings Board which will establish a program to provide every Oregonian with access to an easy to start, effective and portable savings account. This bill will streamline the process for those Oregonians who do not have a plan at work and will help small businesses retain good employees.



Bipartisanship

This session has come to a close, and while there have been some issues that have split the legislature down party lines, contrary to what most people think this has actually been one of the most bipartisan legislatures in recent history. Analysis shows that 97% of the bills passed by the House of Representatives have had bipartisan support and that almost half of the bills passed have had Republican chief sponsors. I am overjoyed that as a state government we have been able to come together and to take steps to improve our communities and our state, but I also end this session with the knowledge that there is more to be done.

Community Events

Earlier this month I had the pleasure of attending the opening of the Central Health & Wellness Center and Central Child Development Center. This center will offer full dental, medical and mental health services to the surrounding area. This addresses a crucial need in the community and will help in preventing illnesses before they happen so that students are not forced to miss school and adults aren't forced to miss work in order to receive proper health care.



Health & Wellness Center and Child Development Center in Independence

I was also happy to cheer for the South team in the annual Les Schwab Football Bowl as they swept to a historic 42-21 victory over the North team. Congratulations to all of the players from Central and West Salem! A special thank you to Coaches Shane Hendricks from Central and Shawn Stanley from West Salem for helping to coach the team and lead our boys to victory.



South Team's 42-21 Victory in the Les Schwab Bowl



Peter Courtney Health and Wellness Center

At the commencement of my own alma mater, Western Oregon University (Go Wolves!),

I was also honored to attend the renaming of WOU's health and wellness center to the Peter Courtney Health and Wellness Center. Congratulations Senator Courtney and thank you for your dedicated service to our State.

What's Ahead?

During the interim I will continue to work on finding a more permanent funding source for Veterans' Services so that we ensure that those who have sacrificed so much for our freedoms are assured that their needs are met. This includes working with colleges and universities so that veterans relying on the G.I. Bill are able to receive Bridge Grants to finish school. I will continue to work towards improving construction standards for buildings across the state, improving their resiliency and their ability to function in the event of a disaster. I will also continue to support small business development, finding innovative and unique ways to grow established businesses like our Wineries, Breweries and Small Farms as well as new business ventures throughout our district; this will include my 60 businesses in 60 days initiative. If there is anything else that you feel needs my attention or that you would like to talk to me about, I encourage you to contact my office at 503-986-1420 or email me at rep.paulevans@state.or.us



Representative Evans hosting a Small Business Forum

Upcoming Events

When: July 14th 6:00-8:00

What: Town Hall BBQ

Where: Minto Brown Park Shelter, 2200 Minto Island Road Southwest, Salem, OR 97302 – off of River RD in South Salem

Why: Come to this meet and greet event to share your perspective on the 2015 legislative session, your concerns for our community, and what policies you would be interested in seeing for the 2016 short session.

When: July 15th 6:00-7:30

What: Forum on Implementing Measure 91

Where: Monmouth Volunteer Center – 144 Warren St. Monmouth, OR 97361

Why: Come learn about the implementation of Measure 91 and offer your input.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul L. Evans". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending from the end of the last name.

Paul L. Evans
Oregon House of Representatives
District 20