



**REPRESENTATIVE CEDRIC HAYDEN  
OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
HOUSE DISTRICT 7**

**For Immediate Release**

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

**House Speaker Kotek kills bill aimed at covering Oregon's Medicaid population**

*House Bill 3465 would have redirected \$50 million to Oregon Health Plan over insurance companies*

**Salem, Ore. —** Representative Cedric Hayden (R-Cottage Grove) expressed frustration as House Bill 3465 was referred to a “dead” committee by Speaker Tina Kotek (D-Portland) today. Without action taken on the measure, current statute requires that \$50 million dollars in the Oregon Reinsurance Program to be sent back to insurance companies on July 1, with no requirement that those dollars be returned to ratepayers.

“It’s disappointing that the Speaker would so casually cast aside a bipartisan bill that would direct \$50 million to Oregon’s most vulnerable citizens,” said Rep. Hayden. “It’s a signal that as the session winds to a close, the Speaker’s office is not interested in negotiating a comprehensive healthcare package that could garner support from both Republicans and Democrats, and hold back the groundswell of grassroots animosity brewing to refer insurance and hospital tax increases to the ballot.”

House Bill 3465 was referred to the House Healthcare Committee. Legislative rules are clear that the only committees which can still entertain new bills are House Rules, Revenue, and Ways and Means. By referring the bill to the Healthcare Committee, the bill is effectively dead on arrival.

“It is gross negligence of our duty to provide the highest possible fiduciary responsibility to tax payers,” said Representative Julie Parrish (R-West Linn). “Contrary to what others may believe, this \$50 million is not a ‘windfall’, as I’ve heard it described. It came from hard-working Oregonians who pay full freight for their own insurance. In the face of double-digit rate increases to premiums, using these dollars for Medicaid coverage rather than the Speaker’s proposal to increase insurance taxes on individuals and small businesses is the fair, honest thing to do.”

House Bill 3465 is supported by the Eugene Register-Guard editorial board and the Independent Party of Oregon.

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