



State Representative **Paul Holvey**



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Legislative Session adjourned on March 7. It has been short but busy, but I am proud of the important work we accomplished together; from protecting critical services, investing in education and our infrastructure, and getting Oregonians back to work. The even year Legislative Sessions are constitutionally set at a maximum of 35 days, a short session year. We generally make mid cycle adjustments in the two year budget and continue some issues from previous sessions and take on issues we feel are important and time sensitive. Of course that means something different to each individual, but the compressed time frame makes it difficult to accomplish new, complex or controversial issues in the short session. However, I never shy away from bringing forward bills that are important to Oregonians and the constituents I represent. Legislation is always a complex debate with special interests in Salem; and in that debate I never forget that the interest of Oregonians come first.

This session, I returned as Chair of the Consumer Protection and Government Efficiency Committee. I also served on three other committees: Business and Labor, Rural Communities, and on the Rules Committee as Vice-Chair.

I have included in this newsletter information that I hope will give you an idea of what we accomplished during 2014 Session of the 77th Legislative Assembly. Additionally, I have included brief descriptions of some of the bills I introduced and their outcomes.

In addition to advocating for state policy and legislation, I can often times help my constituents navigate the state system for services and programs.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office at (503) 968-1408 or rep.paulholvey@state.or.us if I can be of any assistance with these matters.

It is a honor and privilege to serve the people of House District 8.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul".

Paul Holvey
Oregon State Representative
District 8

Education – Delivering better results for Oregon’s students

High-quality education is not a luxury – it’s a necessity. This year I worked to deliver better results for students of all ages and to make higher education more affordable and accessible.



We created Summer Learning Grants (**HB 4117**) to fund programs that will add at least 60 hours of learning time for over 5,000 students at high-poverty schools. The summer learning gap is a major driver of inequality in our education system, and these summer programs take a targeted step to close that gap. Applegate Elementary School was fortunate enough to receive summer programs grant through **HB 4117**.

A few weeks ago, we also learned that local revenue for K-12 schools is up by \$98 million statewide for the 2014-15 school year. I am proud to report that this has boosted local schools in our districts budget for this next year. Here is a short list of how much money we were able to add.

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| | Bethel 52 | Blachly 90 | Creswell 40 | Crow- Applegate | Eugene 4J | Fern Ridge 28J | Junction City 69 | Mapleton 32 | North Douglas 22 | South Lane 45J |
| Added \$ | 569,369 | 36,301 | 130,557 | 36,218 | 1,615,874 | 148,147 | 167,380 | 27,199 | 40,400 | 287,100 |

That’s in addition to the historic billion dollar boost for Oregon’s public schools that the legislature passed last session!

We also took steps to help Oregon’s students and their families find ways to afford education beyond high school and to support adults who are returning to school to develop new jobs skills. After earning national attention for last year’s “Pay it Forward” proposal to allow free university tuition that would be paid back over time, this session we approved additional ideas to make higher education more affordable. The “Aspiration to College” bill (**HB 4116**) will support low-income and first-generation community college students, and the “Oregon Promise” (**SB 1524**) will study whether it’s realistic to allow Oregon high school graduates to attend community colleges for free.

We have also continued to award Revitalization Grant money with Career Technical Educations (CTE’s). The Oregon Legislature established the CTE Revitalization Grant to benefit students, schools and local employers around the state in fields such as healthcare, manufacturing, construction, engineering, agriculture, renewable energy technology and more. Last year there were 140 Oregon middle and high schools, serving over 90,000 students, that received CTE Revitalization Grants totaling over \$8.8 million. This February we added an additional \$2

million to Career Technical Education grants. CTE and apprenticeship programs will help Oregonians meet the increased job demands of the future.

Creating Jobs and Encouraging Innovation

Oregon's economy is showing some signs of recovery, but it's not growing fast enough – especially for the middle-class and low-income families who must work harder and longer just to keep up. Recent stats from Oregon Employment Department indicate Oregon will add 258,000 jobs over the next 10 years, and an additional 400,000 'replacement' job openings. The need to have workers with the right training and skills will be critical for businesses and our economy.

Small businesses employ over half the state's workforce and play a vital role in our economy. This session, we continued to expand access to capital for small businesses looking to grow and create jobs (**SB 1563**). Oregon's Entrepreneurial Development Loan Fund helps start-ups, micro-



enterprises and small businesses expand or become established. By raising the amount of support that small businesses can receive through that fund, we will support sectors ranging from natural resources to high tech.

This year I joined the Oregon Workforce Investment Board. During the session we were instrumental in passing **SB 1566**, legislation to modernize the state's existing job training programs.

SB 1566 promotes coordination between state agencies that oversee workforce programs modernizing Oregon's job training programs to ensure the system is meeting workers' and employers' needs across the state. SB 1566 came from a two-year workgroup that carefully reviewed ways to improve the effectiveness and availability of job training programs in Oregon. It promotes increased coordination of state services involving education, employment, and economic development in order to improve job training programs. To accomplish this, the bill assigns new duties to the Oregon Workforce Investment Board and directs them to work with local workforce investment boards and state agencies to increase efficiencies. SB 1566 coordinates efforts on getting Oregonians to work with the training they need while empowering them with the tools to advance in their current positions. While we have many good job training programs already this bill will allow us to better coordinate their success, giving working Oregonians greater access to good, living wage jobs.

Bonding for Infrastructure

OHSU Cancer Research Center and University of Oregon Construction Projects

SB 5703 authorized \$200 million in bonds for a state-of-the art cancer research center at Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU). This matched a private contribution to establish a world class cancer treatment and research facility here in Oregon. This will help advance efforts to improve care for cancer patients and advance the fight against many forms of cancer. SB 5703 includes requirements that workers be paid prevailing wage, and that its contractors meet apprenticeship targets. As part of the agreement OHSU will also begin an annual investment in statewide, community-based cancer prevention, education, and research initiatives.

University of Oregon also received \$2.1 million in bond proceeds for repairs to a major utility tunnel that runs underneath Franklin Ave. There was an additional push for another \$7 million bond for renovations to Chapman Hall but these funds were not provided; they will be likely funded in 2015.

Other projects slated for authorization include urgent health and safety projects at Oregon universities and investments to support the expansion of higher education in central Oregon. Those projects include Oregon State University Cascade Campus, Southern Oregon University, Oregon Institute of Technology, Western Oregon University, and Central Oregon Community College.

CRC – I5 Bridge Replacement Project Shutdown

The Oregon Legislature adjourned without reinstating construction funds for the CRC I-5 Bridge Replacement project. As acknowledged by Governor Kitzhaber the project will begin the process of orderly archival and closeout. The project will be closed out in a retrievable manner in order to adequately preserve a decade of environmental reviews, community involvement, and detailed engineering work for potential future use. Expenditures will be reduced immediately and further design and development will not occur. The project will shut down completely by May 31, 2014.

Class Action

HB 4143 was a bill directing unclaimed damages from class action suits to be used for Legal Aid and domestic violence programs. Currently Oregon is one of two states that allow unclaimed proceeds from a class action suits to be retained by the guilty defendant in the suit. In some cases as much as 50% of the judgment will be retained by a guilty defendant. HB 4143, which passed overwhelmingly in the House, died in the Senate because the 14 Republican members locked up against several proposals and were joined by one Democrat, Senator Betsy Johnson, to produce a 15-15 deadlock. BP and Phillip Morris fought the proposal ferociously because each is in the midst of a class action suit.

Crop Donation Tax Credit

Crop Donation Tax Credit bill (**SB 1541**) will increase food donations and reduce food waste. Farmers will be able to increase the amount of fresh fruits and vegetables that they donate to hungry Oregonians through food banks. The Crop Donation Tax Credit will allow farmers and producers to receive a tax credit valued at 15 percent of the wholesale price of the food donated.

Protecting our Pollinators

Bee populations in our state and worldwide are declining at alarming rates. Most noticeably 50,000 bumble bees died as a result of the use of pesticides in a Wilsonville parking lot. **HB 4139** directs the Oregon Department of Agriculture to improve education for licensed pesticide applicators and forms a task force to consider ways to protect bees. While I'm glad that this legislation starts a conversation on how to protect our pollinators, I believe that it falls far short of a complete statewide ban on Neonicotinoids.

Cover Oregon

While Cover Oregon has had continued problems with its online interface the number of Oregonians signed up for affordable coverage continues to grow. Over 250,000 Oregonians have signed up for health insurance by going directly to private insurers working with Cover Oregon. The bottom line is that more Oregonians are receiving health coverage while the majority of bad perception rests with the online interface; it is an information technology (IT) issue. I am proud that we are able to offer more Oregonians affordable health insurance and believe that we should not let IT problems be a barrier to a successful program. If anyone is having trouble with the process of applying for Cover Oregon please do not hesitate to contact our office for help (rep.paulholvey@state.or.us).

Information Technology (IT) Projects

In response to challenges with Information Technology projects, I worked with Rep. Nancy Nathanson to sponsor HB 4122. There is a need to ensure that large scale IT projects, including Cover Oregon, are managed better.

HB 4122 sets forth a process where specific IT projects will have additional scrutiny. It requires state contracting agencies and public corporations to obtain quality management services from a qualified contractor on Information Technology projects that exceed \$5 Million or meet other specific criteria. This bill addresses design, implementation, and accountability of IT projects, adding a layer of mandatory oversight and the capacity to correct problems.

HB 4135 requires the Chief Information Officer CIO to advise state agencies, boards or commissions in developing, acquiring, maintaining, or implementing information technology resources. It grants the CIO the power, duty and responsibility to perform a number of activities related to individual agency and statewide information technology initiatives, plans and budgets while reporting these findings to the legislature.

Interim Medical Benefits Coverage- Getting injured workers back to work

One of my greatest achievements this session was the passage of **HB 4104**. There has long been a problem for workers receiving the medical treatment they deserve while waiting for a workers

compensation claim determination. In some cases workers have lost their health insurance while waiting for workers comp to make a compensability decision, and when the workers comp claim is denied, they receive no treatment because of the loss of health plan coverage. Under HB 4104 when a worker has coverage under a health plan and is waiting for a workers comp determination, treatment under the health plan can be pre-authorized and expedited. The workers will get the treatment they need quicker, and hopefully get back to work quicker, while the insurance companies determine who has the liability to pay, recognizing the worker has coverage and should be able to get treatment.

Labeling of Genetic Engineered Foods

Consumers should have the right to know what is in their food. **HB 4100** required food that contains genetically engineered materials to be labeled, and that the question be referred to Oregon voters to make that decision.

I am proud to be the chief sponsor of this legislation, bringing this concept forward in this and previous sessions. Unfortunately House Republicans, joined by a few key Democrats, withheld their support for bringing the bill to a vote in the House and to Oregon voters.

This legislation was simply about providing consumers with facts that they may deem important about the food they purchase and eat. I support consumers' rights to make informed decisions. I will continue to support efforts that will give consumers the information and right to make their own decisions on whether to purchase and consume products containing GE material.

Thank you to everyone who called, emailed, or visited me in the Capitol this session – I can't tell you how important it is to hear what you think. Again please do not hesitate to contact my office at (503) 968-1408 or rep.paulholvey@state.or.us if I can be of any assistance with these matters.

If you would like to research any of the legislation discussed here Oregon Legislative Information Site or OLIS is a great resource. To look up a specific bill by number, go to OLIS and click on "Bills" in the top bar near the right edge. My may also search by sponsor and committee.

Links: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2014R1>

Together we can build a stronger future for Oregon.



PS - Also, with tax season around the corner, be sure to have your returns filed before April 15th. If you make less than \$58,000 a year, you can E-file your federal and state returns for free online with any of our approved preparation software. You can find out more information online at <http://www.oregon.gov/dor/ESERV/Pages/online.aspx>