



## 2019 Issue Summaries

### Seeking Access to Justice and Equal Rights for All – Access and Equity

Oregon House Democrats are fighting to ensure that every Oregonian is afforded the same fundamental rights, regardless of their race, religion, gender expression, age, or sexual orientation. We are committed to making sure our justice system is fair for all, our seniors and people with disabilities are respected and protected, immigrants feel welcomed and accepted, and veterans have the support they deserve.

#### Seeking Equal Rights for All

##### Passed Into Law

###### Driver's Licenses for All

HB 2015, the Equal Access to Roads Act, allows all Oregon residents who pass written and driving tests, pay the fees, and provide proof of identity and residency to get a standard driver's license. This change is part of the state's transition to providing enhanced security licenses as required by the federal government under REAL ID. The bill includes anti-discrimination language for those with standard licenses or ID cards and explicitly states that they are not evidence of the holder's immigration status.

###### Strengthening Oregon's Hate Crimes Law

SB 577:

- renames the crime of "intimidation" as "bias crime,"
- adds gender identity as a protected characteristic under Oregon's bias crime laws,
- reclassifies certain serious bias crimes as felonies,
- requires more detailed reporting of bias incident statistics by law enforcement and district attorneys to the Criminal Justice Commission, and
- Creates a hate crime telephone hotline at the Department of Justice for the purpose of taking reports of hate crimes and connecting victims with services.

###### Updating LGBTQ Language in Statute

HB 2589 removes references in statute to sexual orientation being considered a physical or mental impairment.

###### Civil Rights Protections for Interscholastic Activities

HB 3409 requires any school district that participates in interscholastic activities to implement policies to prevent the harassment of participants and provide for reporting and resolution of any complaints of harassment that occur.

###### Sanitary Products in Correctional Facilities

HB 2515 requires correctional facilities to provide tampons and other sanitary products to people in custody at no cost.

###### Graduate Student Tuition Equity

SB 859 extends resident tuition for graduate programs in public universities to non-citizen residents of Oregon.

### Oregon Voting Rights Act

HB 3310 requires elections for school and community college boards to be conducted in a manner that does not impair the equal opportunity of members of protected classes to elect candidates of their choice or influence the outcome of the election.

### Unlawful Summoning of a Police Officer

HB 3216 creates a civil cause of action against a person who summons the police with the intent to unlawfully discriminate against or harm another person.

### Capitol Culture

HCR 20 and HB 3377 establish new standards of conduct for the Legislative Branch and those working in the Oregon State Capitol and create procedures by which harassment and sexual harassment can be reported, investigated, and punished through a fair and victim-centered process.

### Minority Head Coach Interviews

HB 2216 requires public universities to interview one or more qualified minority applicants when hiring a head coach or athletic director.

### No Bail Requirement for Parking Tickets

HB 2471 prohibits courts from requiring defendants to post a fine or bail amount prior to contesting a parking ticket.

### Translator Hearsay

HB 2480 makes changes to Oregon's hearsay rules to make it easier for non-English speakers to have their testimony introduced in court.

### Guardianship Protections

HB 2601 requires a guardian to seek the approval of the court before limiting a protected person's association with other people.

### Missing and Murdered Native Women

HB 2625 requires the Department of State Police to study and improve law enforcement response to cases of missing and murdered Native American women in Oregon.

### Prohibiting Unwarranted Removals

HB 2849 requires a court order for a child to be taken into protective custody unless specific criteria are met.

### Prohibiting Immigration Inquiries by Courts

HB 2932 prohibits the court from inquiring into a criminal defendant's immigration status as part of a criminal proceeding.

### Title IX Policies

HB 3415 requires colleges and universities to adopt written policies regarding sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, and to require employees who may be required to assist in investigations to participate in annual training on those subjects.

### Expungement of Eviction Records

SB 873 allows a person who has previously been evicted to apply for expungement of the record of that eviction if five years have passed and the person has complied with the terms of the eviction judgment.

### U Visas

SB 962 requires law enforcement and prosecutors to certify whether crime victims have met the qualifying conditions to apply for a U visa.

### Secretary of State Business Form Translation

HB 2998 requires the Oregon Secretary of State to make versions of mandatory forms available in the five most commonly spoken and written non-English languages.

## **Funded**

### Refugee Resettlement Support

Historically, Oregon has funded refugee services with federal funds. However, the state received notice that the Trump Administration will suspend these funds, so HB 2508 appropriates \$2 million General Fund to award grants that support refugee resettlement agencies, including \$200,000 for a culturally responsive employment service provider. The funding will serve approximately 900 refugees.

### Legal Services for Immigrants

This year's budget included \$2 million to support a state-level investment in legal support for immigrants who are facing detention or deportation. This funding will prevent family separation and maintain community stability.

### Legal Services for Incarcerated Women

HB 2631 establishes a pilot program at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility to help incarcerated women re-enter their communities and obtain housing and employment.