



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Oregon House Democrats Unveil 2016 Vision**

*Strengthening education, expanding economic opportunities key to keeping Oregon a great place to live*

Salem, OR—Marking the first day of the 2016 legislative session, Oregon’s House Democrats today unveiled their Vision for Oregon’s Future, which reaffirms the values and priorities that will guide the House Majority through the session and beyond.

Through a web video and statement (attached below), the House Democrats made clear that strengthening education and leveling the playing field for working families and small businesses are the keys to ensuring that Oregon continues to be a great place to live.

“Oregon House Democrats have a long history of standing up for Oregonians in every part of our state,” says House Majority Leader Jennifer Williamson. “In 2016, we will continue working to create real and lasting opportunities for all Oregon families.”

“Our vision for the future is one where everyone has the opportunity to thrive, not just get by,” Rep. Williamson adds. “As we head into this year’s legislative session, House Democrats are focusing on the values that guide us as legislators, as Democrats, and as Oregonians.”

Click here or on the image below to watch the video: <https://youtu.be/8RPac8AU08A>



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## Oregon House Democrats 2016 Vision Statement

Oregon House Democrats will stand up for Oregonians in every part of the state and fight for a future where everyone has a chance to thrive. We believe that:

- When it comes to expanding opportunity, public education is the most critical investment we can make. We must secure adequate funding and work to build the strongest possible K-12 classrooms, community colleges, career training opportunities, and universities for students across our state.
- Children with access to strong early-childhood programs (including preschool, quality childcare, and full-day kindergarten) will be in a better position to succeed.
- Too many Oregonians are working hard but don't have a chance to get ahead or build for their future. We need more good-paying jobs that provide greater security and a path to the middle-class.
- As the economy strengthens, we must invest in key areas to support those harmed by the recent recession and left behind by the recovery—vulnerable kids, people of color, women, working families, low-income seniors, and veterans.
- Innovation and creativity among small and growing businesses make our local economies healthy and vibrant.
- Smart investments in Oregon's transportation, technology, and emergency preparedness infrastructure will create jobs and improve quality of life throughout the state.
- All Oregonians deserve access to affordable, high-quality health care.
- There's no place for discrimination in Oregon.
- Every community in the state deserves a safe and healthy environment, including public safety protections, affordable housing, and clean air and water.
- Climate change is one of the most pressing threats to Oregon's economy, natural resources, and way of life.
- Government needs to be transparent, accountable, and effective.
- Consumers deserve effective protections against fraud, abuse, and exploitation.

By working together to protect Oregonians' priorities, we'll continue to ensure that this state remains a great place to live, work, raise a family, and start a business.