

From the Offices of Representative Willy Chotzen, Representative Nathan Sosa, Representative Farrah Chaichi, Representative David Gomberg

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Press Contact:

Office of Rep. Chotzen, Rep. Willy Chotzen@oregonlegislature.gov

Office of Rep. Sosa, Rep. Nathan Sosa@oregonlegislature.gov

Office of Rep. Chaichi, Rep.FarrahChaichi@oregonlegislature.gov

Office of Rep. Gomberg, Rep. David Gomberg@oregonlegislature.gov

Oregon Lawmakers Strengthen Consumer Protections in Home Solicitation Sales

Salem, Ore. - Today, Oregon lawmakers in the House passed <u>HB 3605</u>. The bill allows individuals to sue sellers who violate laws related to sales pitches made at their homes. Additionally, it allows the Attorney General to take action against people violating home solicitation sales regulations.

"If someone comes to your home – the place where you deserve to feel most safe – you shouldn't have to endure being tricked or deceived by a bad actor," said **Rep. Willy Chotzen (D-Southeast Portland),** chief sponsor of the bill. "This bill is a simple fix to make sure that our laws reflect that expectation."

The bill would make a meaningful change to Oregon law by recognizing that violations of Oregon's more than 50-year-old Home Solicitation Sales Act ("HSSA") are also violations of the Unlawful Trade Practices Act ("UTPA"). The HSSA is a consumer protection law that gives customers the right to cancel a home solicitation sale within three business days. It applies to sales, leases, or rentals of goods or services for personal, family, or household use, where the customer's written agreement or offer to purchase is made at a place other than the seller's place of business.

Rep. Nathan Sosa (D-Greater Hillsboro), a co-chief sponsor of the bill says, "This isn't about making it more difficult to sell things door-to-door. It is about empowering consumers to stand up for themselves if they are subjected to unlawful sales tactics."

In 1979, the Oregon Court of Appeals held in Tri-West Const. v. Hernandez, that falsely telling consumers their rights under the HSSA violates the UTPA. HB 3605 will confirm the holding in Tri-West and ensure that all Oregonians are afforded the full protections of the HSSA.

"Our most vulnerable consumers, especially older adults, who are more often home during the day, and non-English speakers, are most likely to fall victim to high pressure and deceptive sales tactics. We must do better for them," said **Rep. Farrah Chaichi (D-Aloha & Beaverton)**.

According to the <u>National Institute of Health</u>, "financial exploitation among older adults is a significant concern that severely impacts the fastest-growing segment of our population." <u>The Federal Bureau of Investigation</u> reported that in 2021, there were 92,371 older victims of fraud, resulting in \$1.7 billion in losses and a 74% increase in losses compared to 2020.

"Oregonians shouldn't be subject to any unnecessary and stressful encounters if they buy something from their own front doorstep," said **Rep. David Gomberg (D-Lincoln County).**

The bill now moves to the Senate for consideration.

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