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Oregon Democrats to Examine Affordability, Workforce Development, and Health Care Access as Federal Cuts Hit Home

Interim committees will review the impact of federal funding losses and rising costs on Oregon families and workers, laying groundwork for the 2027 legislative session

SALEM, Ore. – House and Senate Democrats will convene legislative committees next week to examine how rising costs and federal funding cuts are affecting Oregon families, workers, and patients, and to lay the groundwork for policy solutions ahead of the 2027 legislative session. The committees will meet Tuesday through Thursday, September 8 to 10, in the state capitol.

"With a dysfunctional federal government, state and local leadership has never been more important," said **House Majority Leader Ben Bowman** (D - Tigard, Metzger & S. Beaverton). "While the Trump administration cuts healthcare and food assistance and jacks up prices with an endless war and reckless tariffs, Oregon is fighting to lower costs and protect vulnerable people."

"Oregon Democrats have stood with the people of our state in resisting federal overreach and responding to an affordability crisis made worse by the president's terrible decisions on domestic spending and international conflict," said **Senate Majority Leader Kayse Jama (D - SE Portland, Boring & Damascus).** "Right after Labor Day, we will meet in Salem to look at what's working for Oregon families and what new solutions we can build for the future."

Legislators will hear from experts to create policy solutions for 2027, including:

- **House Interim Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection on September 9 at 11:30 a.m.**
    - Affordability in retail: pricing and privacy in the age of algorithms

    - Affordability in insurance: rising premiums, record profits, and policy options
- **House Interim Committee on Labor and Workforce Development on September 9, 8:30 a.m.**
    - Introduction to Oregon's workforce development system, ahead of upcoming workforce development proposals
- **Senate Interim Committee on Commerce and General Government, on September 8, 8:30 a.m.**
    - Perspectives on workforce development from leaders in business and economic analysis
    - Perspectives on economic development from leaders in business, labor, and economic analysis
- **Senate Interim Committee on Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal & World Affairs on September 9, 11:30 a.m.**
    - Update on Oregon wildfires and firefighting
    - Update on Oregon's Department of Emergency Management

Committees will also examine how federal funding and policy changes are affecting Oregonians:

- **House Interim Committee on Health Care and Senate Interim Committee on Health Care on September 9 at 2:30 pm and 11:30 a.m.**
    - Update on the Oregon Health Authority's response to Trump administration paperwork requirements and increased bureaucracy for proving work activities by Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid) members
- **Senate Interim Committee on Human Services on September 9, 2:30 p.m**.
    - Emerging threats to the rights, dignity, and inclusion of Oregonians with disabilities

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