



# PRESS RELEASE

## OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

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For Immediate Release  
Feb 26, 2020

For More Information, Contact:  
Aaron Fiedler: 503-986-1904  
aaron.fiedler@oregonlegislature.gov

### **As Republicans Take a Taxpayer Funded Vacation, House Democrats Continue to Work**

SALEM, Ore. – As the Oregon House Republicans continue their taxpayer funded vacation in an effort to block legislation, years in the making with significant input from those very Republicans, to address climate change, Oregon House Democrats took to the House floor to recognize individuals who continue to show up for the people of Oregon and the legislation that hangs in the balance.

House Speaker Tina Kotek noted that, had Republicans showed up today, the House would have taken up nine bills and four resolutions, which were to be carried on the floor by seven Democrats and five Republicans. Among that legislation were bipartisan bills to reform opportunity zones, provide additional funding for small school districts, make fixes to improve child welfare and support for residential care facility workers.

Rep. Karin Power (D-Milwaukie) welcomed the climate activists who came to advocate for Senate Bill 1530, significant legislation to address the climate crisis.

“Sadly, because some of our colleagues decided to walk off their jobs and take a taxpayer funded vacation, these Oregonians who came to their Capitol are not able to make their voices heard to everyone,” Rep. Power said. “For some of them, their own representatives aren’t here.”

Senate Bill 1530 is the product of years of work that involved Democrats, Republicans and stakeholders from business and environmental causes. In just the last year, more than 35 hours of public hearings have occurred, legislators went on a statewide tour, and significant changes have been made in response to Republican concerns.

In addition to climate, House Majority Leader Barbara Smith Warner pointed out an Oregonian article, distributed to every desk in the chamber, written by Hillary Borrud titled, “Oregon Republicans’ walkouts could delay critical spending until 2021.”

“Her reporting yesterday highlighted the critical services that will go underfunded if this costly walkout continues,” Rep. Smith Warner said on the floor. In addition to climate legislation, those budgets include

Rep. Rachel Prusak (D-West Linn) thanked gun violence prevention advocates for coming to the Capitol and pointed out that legislation to keep guns out of the hands of those who might do harm to themselves or others was supposed to be on the House floor today.

“Unfortunately, not enough of our colleagues are here today, so we are unable to do that,” Rep. Prusak said. “To everyone whose life has been affected by gun violence, and to all of you who came here today, I am sorry. Know that we are still here working hard for you.”

Rep. Rob Nosse (D-Portland) extended courtesies to those of his House Democratic colleagues who showed up to work today.

“It is because of all of you that we have passed historic funding for our public schools, expanded access to health care, protected the rights of every Oregonian, and made progress on our state’s affordable housing crisis. It’s because of all of you that we will tackle climate change and so much more,” Rep. Nosse said.”

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