



PRESS RELEASE

OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

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House Sends Rural Worker Protection Act to the Governor

SALEM – Oregonians will have better protections against anti-worker, anti-union efforts with the passage of [Senate Bill 1040](#), which cleared the House with a bipartisan vote and is now headed to the Governor’s desk.

The Rural Worker Protection Act codifies into state law existing federal law protecting the rights of private sector labor organizations to enter into union security agreements with employers. These agreements are typically part of collective bargaining contracts and set the standard for consistent labor relations.

The legislation comes in response to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals decision, *United Automobile Workers v. Hardin County (KY)*, in which the court said that local governments could ban union security agreements.

Rep. Margaret Doherty (D-Tigard), a sponsor of the bill, said workers in every corner of Oregon deserve to have the strongest possible protections. It is necessary, she added, to ensure both employers and workers have a statewide standard and to ensure that local governments can not interfere in a way that they have never been allowed to before.

“This bill ensures that workers and employers alike can continue to operate in the way they have since laws began governing private sector labor relations,” Rep. Doherty said.

The bill was co-chief sponsored by Rep. Jennifer Williamson (D-Portland), Rep. John Lively (D-Springfield), Rep. Dan Rayfield (D-Corvallis), Sen. Ginny Burdick (D-Portland) and Sen. James Manning (D-Eugene).

This bill adds to legislation Oregon House Democrats have passed this session intended to support working Oregonians. Included among that legislation is [House Bill 2005](#) which provides pay equity for every Oregonian and [House Bill 3008](#) which protects working Oregonians from wage theft.

Senate Bill 1040 passed the House 41-17.

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