



NEWS

Oregon Legislature - House Democratic Caucus

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House Democrats evaluate 2014 legislative successes

SALEM – Today Oregon lawmakers completed the 2014 legislative session.

“Our focus going into this session was: What do we need to do to keep our state moving forward, and what can we get done to help the people of Oregon?” House Majority Leader Val Hoyle (D – Eugene) said. “We delivered better results for our students, put more Oregonians back to work and pushed to make our state government work better.”

House Democrats led the way on many important issues, including:

Prioritizing access to high-quality education: After passing the largest K-12 budget in Oregon history and holding down tuition increases at Oregon universities last year, House Democrats continued to prioritize education in 2014.

New summer learning grants will provide over 5,000 students at high-poverty public schools with additional learning time, and a \$2.2 million investment in Employment Related Day Care will help expand support for parents who are returning to school.

The legislature also approved ideas to make higher education more accessible and affordable. The “Aspiration to College” bill will support low-income and first-generation community college students and the “Oregon Promise” will study whether it’s realistic to allow Oregon high school graduates to attend community colleges for free.

Creating jobs and encouraging innovation: As Oregon’s economy continues to improve, House Democrats focused on putting people back to work and expanding the economic recovery to all Oregonians.

The legislature issued bonds for a state-of-the-art cancer research center at Oregon Health and Science University and funded key construction projects across the state; expanded access to capital for small businesses looking to grow and create jobs; increased support for the Oregon Manufacturing Extension Partnership to help Oregon businesses expand production; boosted funding in career and technical education programs that help graduates enter the workforce; and invested in retraining unemployed and underemployed bioscience engineers.

Making government work better for Oregonians – House Democrats pushed to make government more efficient and effective in order to better serve Oregon’s taxpayers and maximize funding for services Oregonians need.

The re-balance of the state budget protected critical services and boosted investments in SNAP meal programs, emergency housing and homelessness assistance, and bonding for affordable housing. In addition, House Democrats pushed to ensure taxpayers’ hard-earned money is being spent wisely by increasing accountability and oversight on large, public IT projects.

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