



OREGON HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE

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House Republicans Vote To Allow Oregonians To Weigh In On Minimum Wage Bill

Democrats Reject Republican Efforts To Allow Statewide Vote On Costly New Wage Mandate

Salem, OR - House Republicans today submitted two minority reports to SB 1532, the Democrats' proposal to drastically increase Oregon's minimum wage, which would have allowed Oregonians to directly weigh in on the legislation. [Minority Report 1](#) would have removed the emergency clause from SB 1532, allowing Oregonians to have the ability to gather signatures and potentially put the proposal to a statewide vote. Minority Report 1 was rejected by a vote of (24-34). [Minority Report 2](#), which would have provided for a direct referral of SB 1532 to the November 2016 ballot, was also rejected by House Democrats by a vote of (24-34).

"As the Legislature has debated this issue, I've been very moved by the stories and perspectives I've heard from individuals from all across the political spectrum and from every corner of our state," said Representative Duane Stark (R-Grants Pass). "This is clearly an issue of enormous significance. The impacts of this legislation will be broad and far-reaching. I'm disappointed that Oregonians will not have an opportunity to weigh the positives and negatives, and decide for themselves whether the plan laid out in SB 1532 is the best plan for Oregon."

Oregon has a long track record of allowing Oregonians to directly participate on controversial issues. In 2014, Oregonians had the opportunity to vote on measures to allow driver cards for immigrants, regulate genetically modified food products, and legalize recreational marijuana, among other issues. As recently as 2002, Oregonians had the opportunity to weigh in on a proposal to increase the state's minimum wage.

"Oregon's initiative and referendum processes are cherished elements of our state's political system," said Representative Bill Kennemer (R-Canby). "By including an emergency clause in SB 1532 and rejecting opportunities to refer the bill directly to voters, we are eliminating the possibility of Oregon voters playing a role in deciding this important issue, and undercutting a legitimate check on legislative power."

In addition to rejecting the Republican minority reports, House Democrats voted down several amendments that included similar language in the House Business and Labor Committee. The House will now vote on SB 1532 as it was originally introduced into the chamber.

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