



## HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **Oregon House Republicans Kick Off 2015 Legislative Session With Agenda To Increase Opportunities For Oregonians**

*Announce Session Goals To Strengthen And Expand Economic, Education And Healthcare Opportunities for Families Across The State*

**Salem, OR** – House Republicans kicked off the 2015 Legislative Session with a commitment to increase opportunities for Oregonians through commonsense legislation aimed at creating family-wage jobs and increasing economic development; ensuring that every student has access to a first-class education; protecting families, seniors and our most vulnerable residents; and, restoring accountability, transparency and credibility to state government. House Republicans additionally vowed to work to lower the tax burden on middle-class Oregonians by renewing and expanding tax credit opportunities and by blocking tax increases that would further squeeze the budgets of families and small businesses.

“House Republican members have shared a variety of achievable goals that will grow Oregon’s economy and increase opportunities for residents across the state,” said House Republican Leader Mike McLane (R-Powell Butte). “We look forward to discussing these goals in further detail over the next few weeks.”

#### **Economic Opportunity Goals For Families And Small Businesses**

- Increase incomes across the state by creating and attracting more family-wage jobs
- Strengthen Oregon’s rural communities by expanding economic development
- Prioritize roads and infrastructure projects that will improve public safety, decrease congestion and get Oregonians back to work
- Renew and expand tax credits to lower the burden for Oregon families, including the Child Care Tax Credit, the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Crop Donation Tax Credit
- Protect small businesses from a wave of government mandates that will increase costs and stunt growth and expansion
- Bridge relationship between natural resource-based industries and state government to create jobs, help struggling communities and conserve our environment

#### **Education Opportunity Goals For Students, Teachers And Families**

- Invest in targeted and direct funding to classrooms to improve outcomes in education
- Recruit and retain the best and brightest educators to teach in our classrooms
- Implement career-technical initiatives and skills training in our high schools to better prepare our future workforce
- Increase school choice and access to alternative education opportunities to better suit the individual needs of students and families

- Increase instructional time in the classroom so that Oregon students are no longer at a learning disadvantage when compared to students across the nation
- Make college more affordable for students
- Invest in targeted funding to hire new science, engineering, and career-technical instructors and professors to train Oregon's next generation for the jobs of the future

#### **Healthcare Opportunity Goals For Families, Seniors And Our Most Vulnerable Residents**

- Strengthen and expand access to healthcare for families in rural Oregon
- Increase protections for our seniors against physical abuse and financial and identify theft and fraud
- Strengthen the social safety net for our most vulnerable residents by eliminating systemic fraud, waste and abuse of social service programs
- Correct the mistakes of the failed Cover Oregon exchange and ensure its transferred functions are fully accessible to Oregonians

#### **Restore Accountability, Transparency And Credibility Back To State Government**

- Increase transparency of state government functions through additional legislative oversight and checks and balances
- Require project deliverables and timelines from our state agencies and large state projects
- Require that all state reports be promptly posted to the Oregon Transparency Website

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