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**Democratic Leaders failed to help Oregonians with fundamental issues during  
2022 Legislative Session**

**SALEM, Ore.** – House Republicans previously identified lowering the cost of living, reducing crime, and improving education as priority issues for the 2022 Legislative Session.

“Oregonians needed us to tackle our state’s rising cost of living, unchecked crime wave, and deteriorating education,” said House Republican Leader Vikki Breese-Iverson (R-Prineville). “I am proud of what Republicans accomplished this session to make life better for Oregonians across the state, but Democrats prevented us from accomplishing more. Instead, Democratic leaders blocked our additional efforts to help Oregonians while passing an eye-watering spending plan and harmful legislation we will need to fix next year. Our state cannot continue under this failed leadership. It is time for more balance in Salem.”

Republicans were successful this session in passing several important bills that will help Oregonians. Because of Republican efforts, [police can stop riots again](#) and [struggling local pharmacies are exempt from paying the corporate activity tax](#). Republican-sponsored legislation also ensures [affordable dental care for veterans](#) and prevents [mothers from receiving surprise medical bills](#) for out-of-network births.

However, rather than address fundamental issues with policy changes, Democrats gave hundreds of millions of dollars to state agencies while Oregonians are financially struggling under inflation. In addition to a reckless spending plan that bolsters the state budget without meaningfully helping taxpayers, Democrats pushed for legislation that will [harm farm worker hours and pay](#), [let convicted criminals vote](#) and [seek early release](#). An additional proposal would have established [Oregon’s first sales tax](#), while another bill will [prevent police from enforcing some traffic laws](#).

Only some of these proposals passed, but they all used up time and energy during a 35-day short session, effectively killing additional Republican legislation that Oregonians are asking for: [the option of self-service at the gas station](#), better protections from physical assault for [hospital workers](#), appropriate justice for [critically injured victims of violent crime](#), restoring [Oregon’s reading, writing and math standards](#) for graduation, and [transparent school curriculums](#), [\\$1,000 tax credits for volunteer firefighters](#), among others.

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