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Date: April 27, 2021 Contact: Andrew Fromm

Email: andrew.fromm@oregonlegislature.gov

CDC says move forward, Oregon moves backward?

SALEM, Ore. – Today it was announced that 15 Oregon counties are moving to extreme COVID-19 risk starting Friday.

At the same time, a statement from the Governor's office encourages Oregonians to get vaccinated in order to lift health and safety restrictions as fast as possible.

Despite adding more groups to vaccine eligibility, booking a vaccine appointment <u>has proven difficult</u> for people as some counties received disproportionately lower vaccine supplies than others. Another issue with vaccine access in Oregon has <u>been controversial distribution decisions</u> that failed Oregon's seniors and our most vulnerable.

"15 Oregon counties entering 'extreme risk' is the result of inadequate vaccine access for the past two months," said House Republican Leader Christine Drazan (R-Canby.) "Our businesses allow people to gather in places with standardized safety measures. We shouldn't shut them down. They are doing everything they can to reduce the spread of COVID-19 under existing rules. In response, they need more than nominal rent assistance. More one-time federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act should be used to expand on this relief to preserve our main streets and protect jobs."