



## OREGON HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE

### **For Immediate Release**

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### **Oregon has highest government employee health costs on West Coast**

*Health plan premiums for Oregon K-12 schools nearly \$3,000 higher than Washington, California*

**Salem, Ore.** - During today's floor debate on the K-12 education budget, House Republicans pointed to higher than average government employee health plan costs as an additional factor preventing education dollars from being invested directly in classrooms and to the benefit of students. Republicans, citing a recent [analysis by The Register-Guard](#), noted that premiums for Oregon K-12 employees are the highest on the West Coast.

The Register-Guard reported an average premium cost for Oregon K-12 employers of \$12,204 per employee. California and Washington plans are considerably less expensive, with average annual premiums of \$9,825 and \$9,360 respectively. The Register-Guard also wrote, "many school employees aren't paying anything toward their premiums."

A recent [study released by Portland State University](#) reinforced much of what was reported by The Register-Guard. According to the study, which was overseen by Democrat former Secretary of State Phil Keisling, "research also shows Oregon districts' employer-paid health care costs to be similar to Oregon state government employer-paid costs, which a 2014 Pew study found to be some of the nation's highest." PSU found dramatic differences in the cost of providing health insurance when comparing Oregon school districts to districts in other states.

Lake Oswego:	\$18,713	Seattle:	\$10,016
Portland:	\$16,385	Vancouver:	\$9,360
Hillsboro:	\$13,539	Boise:	\$7,320

Republicans have introduced a number of bills focused on reducing the cost of providing healthcare benefits to public employees. Few have received serious consideration from Democratic leaders.

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