



## HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **House Republicans Vote For Commonsense Compromise To Reform Class Action Lawsuit Rules And Protect Legal Aid** *Democrats Reject Balanced Minority Report And Push Through Flawed HB 2700*

**Salem, OR** – House Republicans today submitted and supported a Minority Report, HB 2700–MRA (Minority Report A-Engrossed), to responsibly reform class action lawsuit rules while funding and protecting Legal Aid services for vulnerable Oregonians. Voted down by House Democrats, HB 2700–MRA was an improved, commonsense compromise to HB 2700 that would've aligned Oregon's class action laws with the federal government's and 36 other states, and also would've removed the harmful retroactivity or point in time provision that would've impacted cases that already had verdicts or were already in progress.

"I find it very unfortunate that the line has been drawn so early, that the majority party reject a mainstream compromise that would've benefitted our state while protecting vulnerable and low-income Oregonians," said Representative Andy Olson (R-Albany), the carrier of HB 2700–MRA and Vice-Chair of the House Judiciary Committee. "HB 2700 changes the rule in mid-stream that puts the interests of trial attorneys above everyday Oregonians."

By aligning Oregon's laws with those of the federal Class Action Fairness Act and 36 other states, HB 2700–MRA would've provided consistency for companies that want to conduct business across state lines. Mandated by Congress, the Class Action Fairness Act requires that the award of attorneys' fees in coupon class action lawsuits be tied to the value of the coupons actually claimed by individual class members, removing the ability of trial attorneys to collect massive billing fees.

"House Republicans today offered a smart compromise that would've secured additional funding for Legal Aid services while aligning Oregon's laws with mainstream policies that 37 other jurisdictions successfully utilize," said House Republican Leader Mike McLane (R-Powell Butte). "It's clear that House Democrats have no interest in deviating from their agenda, even for commonsense legislation that would put us on sound, equal footing with other states."

As written, the original bill, HB 2700, represents a flawed piece of legislation and serves as an unreliable and inconsistent form of funding for Legal Aid services:

- HB 2700 removes stability and certainty from the legal process by impacting cases that have either been tried or are currently being tried, thus changing the rules of the game either after or during litigation.
- HB 2700 removes certain rights of individual class members by barring them from making their own legal claims.
- HB 2700 mostly harms Oregon's small businesses and employers, who require sound legal footing and stability to employ hundreds of thousands of Oregonians. The vast majority of large company class action lawsuits are in federal court.

- HB 2700 is an unreliable and unstable source of funding for Legal Aid services. There is no accurate way to predict the amount of Legal Aid funding that would be generated by this bill nor is there a way to ensure that Legal Aid services actually receive this funding due to appeals and other legal processes.

A copy of the House Republican Caucus Minority Report can be accessed [here](#).

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