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House Republicans fight to protect daily necessities from the hidden sales tax

Democrats deny exemption of products that will hit working families in the pocketbook

SALEM, Oregon – Democrats showed once again they are more interested in colluding with corporations than helping Oregon’s most vulnerable citizens. A Republican bill to exempt daily necessities from the burdensome effects of the Democrats’ hidden sales tax was today rejected by the supermajority, 37-22.

Republicans have championed working families throughout the 2019 legislative session, seeking to deflect the onerous taxes passed by the supermajority. Once again, however, Democrats failed to protect Oregon families.

Democrats have carved out exemptions for multinational corporations, forgetting about the working families that struggle to make ends meet. While Democrats collude with big business, Republicans seek to protect working families from the devastating effects of a \$2.8 billion hidden sales tax.

“As a mom of three daughters, I can tell you that there are wants in a family budget, and then there are needs – that are necessary for everyday life,” said Rep. Shelly Boshart Davis (R-Albany), who introduced HB 3446, the *Basic Necessities Tax Exemption Act*, following passage of a hidden sales tax that raises the cost of goods and services for Oregonians.

Instead of paying inflated prices for daily necessities, items exempted by HB 3446 include:

- Diapers, wipes, and baby products;
- Tampons, feminine pads, and feminine hygiene cleansing products;
- Over the counter contraceptives;
- Soap;
- Durable medical goods purchased at retail consumer level, including hearing aids;
- Over the counter medications;
- Toothbrushes, toothpaste, and over the counter oral health products;

- Toilet paper

“If you’re the parent of a newborn, you don’t get to choose if your baby is going to wear diapers. You don’t get to choose if your child spikes a fever and needs baby Tylenol. As a woman, I don’t get to choose if I have a period. A veteran with a PTSD service animal needs to buy dog food. A senior who has lost their hearing is forced to pay cash for hearing aids because they aren’t covered by Medicare. These types of items are necessary to live, and they shouldn’t be subject to taxation,” Boshart Davis said.

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