



## HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER VAL HOYLE

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### NEWS RELEASE

June 3, 2013  
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## **House approves legislation to strengthen Oregon elder abuse laws** *House Majority Leader champions bill that will protect vulnerable seniors*

SALEM – Today the Oregon House of Representatives unanimously passed a bill that will provide vulnerable Oregon seniors with greater protection against fraud and abuse.

House Bill 2205B, championed by House Majority Leader Val Hoyle (D – Eugene/Junction City) and Representative Vic Gilliam (R – Silverton), is designed to strengthen safeguards for seniors who are at risk of financial or physical abuse. The bill expands on 2012 legislation that provides law enforcement with greater authority and more tools to investigate and prosecute people who exploit Oregon's senior citizens.

“Elder abuse is a growing problem in our community. Oregonians who have worked their whole lives and saved for their retirement are too often becoming targets for financial and physical abuse,” Hoyle said. “We need to act now to ensure that people who prey on vulnerable elders are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.”

As the population ages, more Oregonians are suffering from diminished decision-making capacity. HB 2205B improves the investigative process by permanently removing barriers for law enforcement officials who need to access medical and financial health records. The bill also aligns the elder abuse mandatory reporter statutes with Oregon's reporting requirements for child abuse.

HB 2205B now goes to Governor John Kitzhaber for his signature.

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