



State Representative **Alissa Keny-Guyer**



HD 46 * SE & NE Portland * Phone: 503-986-1446 * <http://www.leg.state.or.us/Keny-Guyer>

2015 Legislative Session Summary

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The 78th Oregon Legislative session finally ended on July 6th! The last six months were filled with drama, but overall it was a fantastic session. Despite a gubernatorial transition within the first month and breaking my back in the fourth month, we stayed focused on our priorities and passed many monumental bills. While I summarize the highlights below, I encourage you to see the attached [List of Bills](#) that I closely tracked all session; it is divided by issue and includes links to the bill details and occasional media articles.

Topics (click to skip down to each section):

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1. My Primary Focus in the Legislature

My primary focus is to ensure that working families can find livable wage jobs, affordable housing, quality childcare and education, healthy food and environment, and affordable health care. I am honored to



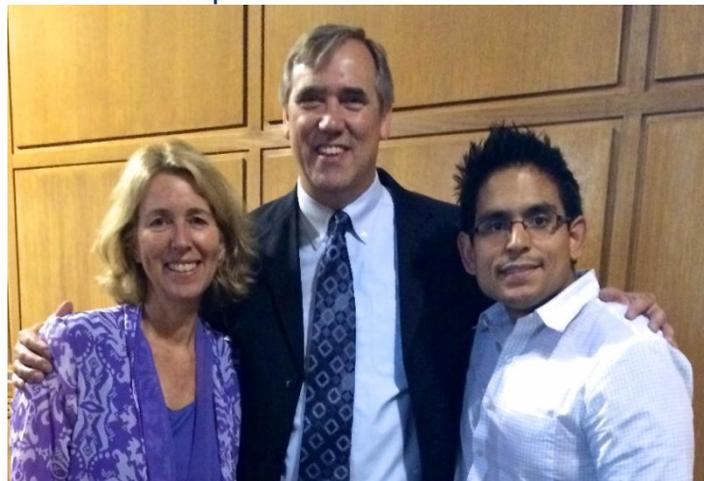
With Jackie Winters (R, Salem) in bipartisan camaraderie.

serve on the House Human Services and Housing (as chair), House Health Care, and Joint Human Services Subcommittee of Ways and Means committees, which passed numerous bills this session to improve access to these resources.

With a background in public health, I am deeply committed to investing in prevention strategies with the greatest returns - from prenatal care to environmental and public health - with a special focus on women, children, and communities who suffer the poorest health. My bills and partnerships with advocates reflect those priorities. I worked hard to develop bipartisan support, and the final votes usually reflected that.

2. My Priority Bills that Passed (read more about them in the [List of Bills](#))

Environmental/Public Health: After four sessions, *SB 478 Toxic-Free Children's Act*, which requires disclosure and phase-out of toxic chemicals in children's products, finally passed! While it had bipartisan support in the House, it was a heavy lift in the Senate. Special thanks to my co-chief sponsors, Sen. Chris Edwards and Rep. David Gomberg; to our primary advocates, Oregon Environmental Council and Oregon League of Conservation Voters; to the leading health organizations in the state; and to dozens of business and community groups, for their consistent support. This bill is now one of the strongest children's toxics bills in the country!



Celebrating with U.S. Senator Merkley and Roberto Gutierrez after the passage of Toxics!

Environmental health bills I championed with Sen. Michael Dembrow included *HB 2931 Radon Assessment in the Schools* and *SB 705 Asbestos*

Mitigation in housing demolitions - both of which are concerns to our district and the state.

Mental Health: Oregon has one of the highest rates of suicide in the country. HB 2948 Susanna Blake Gabay "HIPAA" Act *and* HB 2023



Susanna's parents Susan & Jerry, Amy, Patricia, Julie, me, Rep. Frederick, Jen, and Rep. Greenlick looking on as Governor Kate Brown signed these bills into law.

Hospital Discharge *Planning* both aim to improve outcomes for people (especially youth) experiencing a mental health crisis by linking them to community care. My constituent, Jerry Gabay, who lost his only child to suicide within a month of her hospital discharge, and Julie Magers, a parent advocate and NAMI staff, helped me engage health care providers,

insurers, and consumers in shaping these bills. Passage of this legislation, along with \$20 million in supportive housing for people with mental illness, moves Oregon closer to mental health parity. But we still have a long way to go.

Dental Health was a big focus of mine this session, thanks to the advocacy of Kellie Barnes (Portland City Club dental task force), Oregon Oral Health Coalition, Oregon Dental Association, Upstream Public Health, Oregon Primary Care Association, and my new legislative colleague, Rep. Cedric Hayden, who is a dentist. *HB 2024* aims to improve access to basic preventive dental services through traditional health workers. *HB 3464* will establish guidelines for pregnant women to receive dental services sooner. *HB*



Oral Health Advocates!

2927 requires that all public school students under 7 years of age have a dental screening. *SB 606* extends the sunset for dental pilots that aim to expand dental access.

Women's Health continues to be a priority for me. While Oregon is already the most supportive state when it comes to women's reproductive choices, we passed several bills expanding access. *HB 3343* provides 12-month contraceptive dispensing, and *HB 2879* allows pharmacists to prescribe birth control pills and patches without a doctor's prescription. Following the work I did with Direct Entry Midwives in 2013, I was proud to chief-sponsor *HB 2930*, which requires hospitals to grant independent admitting privileges to Certified Nurse Midwives, a first in the nation!

Children's health and well-being also continues to be a huge focus.



With "Cover All Kids" Colleagues.

My biggest priority bill in this arena was *HB 3517 Cover All Kids*, which would allow Oregon Health Authority to provide health insurance to ALL low-income children residing in Oregon. While it passed the House but failed in the Senate, my primary partners (Oregon Health Equity Alliance and Oregon Latino Health Coalition) were able to secure \$10 million for safety net clinics that serve uninsured populations. I will continue to seek a long-term

solution to COVER ALL KIDS in the future.

I chief-sponsored *HB 3041 Sunscreen Protection in Schools*, which was developed by OHSU medical students, and drafted *HB 2889 Foster Kids Savings Accounts* and *HB 2890 Foster Kids Extra-Curricular Activities* in collaboration with foster youth through the [Foster Youth Connection](#). It's great to see young people shape bills that will impact their lives!

As chair of the **House Human Services and Housing Committee**, I was honored to work on bills that help Oregon's most vulnerable populations access vital services. Among the most significant were: *HB 2015 ERDC*, a \$45 million expansion of Employment Related Day Care, championed by Speaker Tina Kotek; *HB 3535 TANF*, a \$30 million redesign to soften the

"cliff" that families experience when exiting TANF, spearheaded by my vice chairs, Rep. Carla Piluso and Rep. Duane Stark; and *HB 2198: Bonding for Housing* for low-income housing (\$100 million recommended by our committee, but reduced to \$40 million in the final days).

A significant portion of my committee work was spent on streamlining

tax credits to assist low income working families with children and dependent adults living at home. Working with a coalition of business, labor, child care and human service advocates, we eliminated ineffective tax credits, means-tested others, and merged two of the largest ones (Child and Dependent Care, and Working Family Child Care) into a more effective, streamlined tax credit that will better serve lower income families. See *HB 2171 Omnibus Tax Credit bill* for the details.



2015 House Human Services and Housing Committee.

3. Other Significant Bills and Budgets Passed this Session

In addition to the bills I championed, I was proud to strongly support other major bills passed this session that will have an enormous impact



Strong leadership from Speaker Tina

Kotek (here at "Sine Die") helped pass so many monumental bills!

on Oregon. These bills, some of which had been in the works for years, include: *SB 324 Clean Fuels*, *HB 3400*

Marijuana Omnibus Bill, *SB 454 Paid Sick Leave*, *HB 2960 Retirement Savings*, *SB 1 Cover Oregon*, *HB 2307 Banning Conversion Therapy*, *SB 411 Auto Insurance for Personal Injury Protection*, *HB 2177 Motor Voter Bill*, and *HB 2700 Class Action Law Suit*. Thank you to strong legislative leadership, to my colleagues who introduced and championed these bills, to the [Fair Shot Coalition](#), and to so many environmental and social justice advocates for getting these "heavy lifts" past the finished line. You can find more information about them in my [List of Bills](#) and in the [Oregonian's summary of key bills](#) passed this session.

I was also proud to support and often co-sponsor many public safety bills. Huge kudos to Ceasefire Oregon, Gun Owners for Responsible Gun Ownership, Mothers Demand Action, Everytown For Gun Safety, Sen. Ginny Burdick, Rep. Jennifer Williamson, and all my colleagues who faced recall elections for helping pass *SB 941 Expanded Background Checks* and *SB 525 Prohibiting Firearms for Domestic Abusers*. I hope we can pass *SB 945 Child Access Prevention* next! Kudos also to Rep. Lew Frederick, Rep. Joe Gallegos, Urban League, Center for Cultural Organizing, OHEA, Fair Shot Coalition, and others for championing many of the public safety bills like *HB 2002 Racial Profiling*, *HB 3025 Ban the Box*, and *HB 2571 Body Cameras for Police* that address racial bias.

In addition to **record investments in education from pre-school through higher ed** (including \$27 million for pre-school, \$7.4 billion for K-12, including full-day Kindergarten for all kids, \$35 million for CTE/STEM, \$550 million for community colleges, and \$665 million for public universities), we also passed several important bills regarding school testing, English language learners, scholarship opportunities for Tuition Equity (DACA) students, Free and Reduced Lunch and Farm-to-School expansion, and Dyslexia. After two consecutive sessions with significant increases in education funding, we are finally starting to get back on track after years of disinvestment.



Advocates on the Capitol steps.

4. Highlights of some of our Bonding Investments

- \$300 million for K-12 schools: \$175 million for major seismic upgrades, and \$125 million to renovate old facilities and build space for full-day Kindergarten
- \$240 million for construction and renovation at all of Oregon's public universities
- \$200 million for the new OHSU Cancer Institute, now that OHSU has secured its match
- \$53.3 million for capital projects at Oregon's community colleges
- \$62.5 million for affordable housing: \$40 million for new construction for low-income families, \$20 million in supportive housing for Oregonians with mental illness or addiction, and \$2.5 million to help preserve existing affordable housing
- \$35 million to improve the safety of deadly intersections and dangerous stretches of highway in communities, including sidewalks and crossings on Powell Blvd east of I-205
- \$45 million in multimodal transportation through the "Connect Oregon" program
- \$17.4 Million additional funds to rebuild Multnomah County Courthouse

5. Unfinished Business:

Besides "Cover All Kids" as mentioned above, other legislation that I strongly supported that did not pass this time include: *HB 2564 Inclusionary Zoning*, which is an important tool in creating mixed income housing and preventing gentrification; *raising the Minimum Wage, HB 2068 EITC increase, HB 3541 Monthly Tax Credit Distribution*, all of the bills that died under my [List of Bills](#) *Environmental Health and Revenue* categories, and lastly, an *omnibus transportation package*. I was disappointed that we were not able to vet a stand-alone transportation bill that did not require repealing our Clean Fuels legislation; I will be eager to consider a stand-alone package that builds much needed infrastructure and reduces carbon in a future session.

During the interim, I will be working with advocates to support these measures, as well as to start preparing a robust agenda for the Human Services and Housing Committee in 2016 and 2017. Top priorities will include ongoing improvements in child welfare (foster youth), affordable housing, and mental health. Please contact me to work on any of these issues, and to raise your own concerns!

6. A Huge Thanks to My Staff and a Heartfelt Farewell to Roberto

The successful passage of so many of my personal and committee bills was due to my talented and dedicated staff: Roberto Gutierrez and Jen Corbridge; my interns, Emily Langston and Sonya Esaadi; and my in-district liaison, Jennifer Lewis. I am enormously proud of their hard work.



My fabulous staff: Roberto, Sonya, Jen, Emily, and Jennifer.

Roberto, who became my legislative aide the day I was sworn in, has been with me through thick and thin. I am particularly grateful that the Toxic-Free Children's Act passed on the second to last day of session, given his blood sweat and tears on this effort over four sessions. He was also instrumental in shepherding many of the racial equity bills I have sponsored since entering the legislature. Roberto will be sorely missed (but often consulted!) as he moves on to new policy arenas.

With Jen Corbridge taking over as my primary legislative aide, you will remain in great hands! We wish our best to departing staff and interns, to our legislative colleagues until we meet in September for Legislative days, and to all our constituents and advocates who have poured themselves into making Oregon a better place for all to live.

Warmly,

Alissa

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The early days... Roberto and me on AIDS WALK billboards all over Portland!

Please Keep in touch with me during the interim via



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Rep Alissa Keny-Guyer | 900 Court St. NE | Salem | OR | 97301