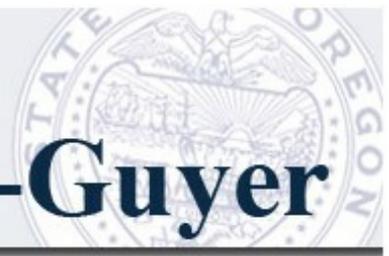




State Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer



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Dear Friends,

As I reflect on the Memorial Day weekend that began with the white supremacist attacks at the Hollywood Max Station - followed by the lockdown in Laurelhurst, I want to thank the many veterans and citizens who have given their lives to protect others. My heart is with them and their families, as we grieve and celebrate their lives. It's a time to remember each of them, as well as victims who face hate crimes every day.

THIS IS MY



AMERICA

Given that this Memorial Day was also the 100th birthday of JFK, who created Peace Corps and asked what we can do for our country, I am inspired to redouble my efforts to create a society that welcomes immigrants, confronts bigotry and inequity, and builds safe neighborhoods at home and abroad.

Memorial Day is also the unofficial start of summer: *so much is happening as we race towards the July 10th session deadline*. Of my six legislative sessions, this session has by far the biggest challenges and goals. To read about them, check the table of contents below. While ALL topics are important, please don't skip over **#2: Tax reform: Oregon Education Investment Act**.

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1. Revenue forecast

The quarterly [revenue forecast](#) was released May 16th, showing that our economic recovery is continuing but slowing down. Enough revenue came in after the April 15th tax deadline to lower our projected state budget deficit from \$1.6 billion to \$1.4 billion, but it also looks like it will

activate the "kicker."

If the actual revenue is at least 2% more than forecasted at the start of the biennium, the kicker sends money back to tax payers rather than to the rainy-day fund. This ridiculous policy (unique to Oregon) is yet another reason that we lack a stable revenue system!

Bottom line: Despite a strong economy, we are facing a massive state deficit that will result in [drastic cuts](#) to our "continuing service level" (CSL) in education, health care, and human services. There is little chance of investments in new areas that aren't even a part of CSL, like affordable housing, school facilities, seismic preparedness, and infrastructure. The proposed cuts at the federal level could dramatically exacerbate this dire situation.



My "unhappy hour" constituent gathering discussing the deficit

2. Tax reform: Oregon Education Investment Act

As I've mentioned in nearly every newsletter over the past many months, ***my top priority this session is to reform our business tax to increase the stability, fairness, and adequacy of our revenue system.***

I've watched our revenue fall short of our needs ever since my first child started public school in 1996. Knowing that our current \$1.4 billion deficit will grow in future biennia and knowing that [we rank last in corporate tax burden](#), we must restructure how we collect taxes from businesses NOW. NOT NEXT SESSION.

I encourage you to watch the [May 4th hearing](#) where Speaker Kotek, Ways & Means Co-Chair Nathanson, and House Revenue Chair Barnhart present the "Oregon Education Investment Act" to the Joint Tax Reform Committee. Their proposal replaces our unstable and inadequate corporate income tax with a simpler [Commercial Activities Tax](#) (CAT) that is projected to grow over time.

The House proposal aimed to generate \$2 billion in new revenue while lessening the tax burden on low-income families, with 75% devoted to education from early childhood through higher ed and vocational training. The remaining 25% could be used for human services, housing, and



Discussing the need for stable funding at an education town hall

other much needed investments.

The Senate favored a smaller tax, so the Joint Tax Reform Committee recently reviewed [materials](#) on May 25th for a compromise that would generate about \$1 billion in net revenue. While I appreciate the tiering of tax rates to reflect the typical profits generated by different sectors, I am DISAPPOINTED that the plan

may now bring in much less revenue.

Bottom line: We need the 3/5 majority in the legislature to pass a tax bill. Please go to investineducationor.com to learn more, to sign up to show your support, and to forward your business contacts. Write to [senators](#) to encourage their support of a level of revenue to meet our needs now and in the future. Let's not continue to limp along for years!

3. Increasing the health care provider tax

Much of our \$1.4 billion deficit comes from our increasing share of our expanded Medicaid program - and that's not even counting the proposed federal health care cuts. To avoid slashing 350,000 people off the Medicaid they receive under the Affordable Care Act, we are trying to pass a [package of health care savings and tax increases](#). Oregon's health care community is largely in favor of this, since the expanded Medicaid is matched by federal funds and reimburses providers for services they used to provide as charity care.



Health Care For All!

Bottom line: This package is essential to save health care coverage as we know it, but we still need your help to secure the 3/5 majority vote. Democrats are solidly on board; please write to [Republican legislators](#) to encourage their support.

4. Cost containment

The Capital Construction Joint Committee heard [presentations on April 21st](#) from two workgroups tasked with exploring ways to reduce the cost of government.

The first group, comprised of bipartisan legislators, considered a

temporary hiring freeze, steps to contain public employee retirement and healthcare costs, and guidelines for evaluating future spending. In considering these concepts, we must ensure that reductions are legal, fair, and don't impact our lowest income workers and families.



Noah Schultz, a great advocate and success story for public safety reinvestment

The second group, comprised of public safety stakeholders, proposed reducing prison cost drivers by expanding the Short-Term Transitional Leave to reduce recidivism, modifying Measure 57 to prevent the opening of a new women's prison, and expanding the Work Release Program to reduce prison bed usage. I strongly support these public safety "reinvestment" proposals.

Bottom line: Cost containment may chip away at our ongoing costs, but it cannot solve our \$1.4 billion deficit. We can't cut our way out of the hole without massive disruption to our economy and to our

most vulnerable citizens. Cost containment must be accompanied by a significant increase in stable revenue to meet our long-term needs.

5. Transportation package

After conducting 11 listening sessions throughout the state, the Joint Committee on Transportation Preservation and Modernization unveiled a [proposal](#) to raise \$8.2 billion for Oregon's infrastructure. Funds raised over the next ten years will go towards relieving highway bottleneck points on I-5, I-205 and 217, seismic upgrades to our bridges, investments in mass transit, bike infrastructure, and other transportation projects.

Bottom line: The transportation package will require a 3/5 majority vote because funds will come from an increased gas tax (raised only once in the last 20 years) and fees. While I support much of this package, I believe we should incentivize electric vehicles, charge tolls on highways where possible, and NOT roll back our Clean Fuels

program in order to pass this package. Send your feedback to the [Joint Committee on Transportation Preservation and Modernization](#), as the package will shape our infrastructure over the next decade!



OPAL and OEC advocates for Youth Pass (and my intern Sandra!)

6. Priority bills

To survive, bills had to pass out of their first chamber (House or Senate) policy committee by April 18th, be scheduled for a work session by May 19th, and pass their second chamber policy committee by June 2nd.

The attached [bill list](#) shows which of my committee and personal priority bills are still alive, and which have died. Fortunately, way more have lived than died, and several of my policy bills are well on their way to becoming law. However, ALL of my bills with a price tag are in Ways & Means and depend on new revenue to pass.

Housing: We remain in a dire housing crisis. The main policy bill of the session, HB 2004 Rent Stabilization & Just Cause Eviction, will likely pass the Senate Human Services Committee this week with major



Dinner duty at the Human Solutions homeless family shelter

compromises. We need your support to get it passed on the Senate floor to ensure that distressed renters get at least some protection out of this session.

My other highest priority housing bills either cost money or generate funds: HB 2002 Preservation, HB 2570

Homeownership Down Payment, HB 2960 Homeownership Repair/Rehab, HB 2912 Land Bank Loan Fund, HB 2724 Rent Guarantee, HB 2959 General Assistance for Homeless with Disabilities, HB 3063 Mental Health Housing, HB 2852 Affordable Housing Tax Credit, and HB 3357 Document Recording Fee.

In addition to these bills, my budget requests include \$40 million above Current Service Level for Emergency Housing Assistance (EHA) and State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP), \$20 million for affordable housing preservation bonds, and \$100 million for Local Innovation Fast track (LIFT) bonds to preserve or build new housing for low income families. While these are large numbers, they are modest compared to the need, and to what we spend in other sectors.

Seniors/Long Term Care: While my career was spent mainly on children and youth issues, I've learned so much about the needs of seniors while chairing Human Services - so this has been a major focus of mine this session. HB 3359 (raising the quality of long term care in facilities) and HB 2661 (raising the standards for long term care referral agencies) are in Ways & Means; HJM 4 (Family Caregivers Act) has been signed into law!

Foster Kids: Given that Oregon has among the worst Child Welfare stats in the country, this has been an ongoing focus for my Human Services committee. HB 2401 (Trauma Informed Training), HB 2171 (CASA's for foster kids), HB 2170 (Ombudsmen for foster kids and foster parents), and HB 2221 (Child Abuse Assessments) are in Ways & Means, while HB 2216 (Foster Children Siblings Bill of Rights) was signed into law!



Current and former foster youth (including my constituent Alan Linhares) at the bill signing for HB 2216

Mental Health: I have worked on several mental health bills this



Members of my mental health work group celebrating HB 3090 & 3091 passing the Senate Human Services Committee

session, but my highest priority bills are HB 3090 (Emergency Department discharge policies for people in a mental health crisis) and HB 3091 (requiring public and private payers to pay for behavioral health assessment and services). Both bills were brought to me by NAMI advocates Jerry Gabay and Julie Magers, and worked on by a large group of stakeholders for nearly 3 years. The bills passed unanimously out of the House and Senate and will be signed into law soon!

Health Care: Most of the health bills I am passionate about are heavy lifts but REALLY IMPORTANT for equity, prevention, and cost of health care: HB 2726 (Cover All Kids -health coverage for undocumented children), HB 3391 (Reproductive Health Equity Act), HB 2387 (Reducing the cost of pharmaceutical drugs); SB 754 (Tobacco 21), and HB 2662 (Tobacco Tax). HB 2660 (breast cancer post-surgery options) was signed into law!



Cover All Kids rally on the Capitol steps

Environment: As in every prior session, I remain committed to reducing toxics and I have chief sponsored several bills. HB 2748 (reducing wood stove smoke) was signed into law, while HB 2725

((\$500k to fund it), HB 3105 (household hazardous waste product stewardship), and SB 871 (asbestos and lead in residential demolitions) are in Ways & Means. SB 1062 (school toxics) has a hearing on May 31; please contact the [Senate Rules Committee](#) to pass it!

I strongly support climate change bills that aim to create a healthy, sustainable environment. HB 2135 ("Cap and Invest" greenhouse gas emissions), HB 2681 (tax credit for residential alternative energy), HB 2711 (10-year moratorium on fracking), HB 3269 (Global Warming Commission), HB 2020 (Energy and Climate Board), and SB 1008 (Clean Diesel) are also heavy lifts and need your support.

Education: / Early Childhood: While most of my early childhood and education efforts are in raising dedicated revenue, I am a chief sponsor and/or strong supporter of HB 2957 (lower Kindergarten ratio in very low income schools), HB 2223 (statewide school nursing services), HB 2845 (ethnic studies), HB 2985 (ERDC task force), and HB 2013 (Pre-school Promise).



Run Mama Run race to support working family bills

Working Families: A major accomplishment this session was the bipartisan support for HB 2005, the nation's strongest wage equity bill, now awaiting the Governor's signature. I'll be carrying SB 398 (awareness of EITC) on the House floor this week, while HB 2193/SB 828 (fair work week) and HB 3087 FMLI (Family and Medical Leave Insurance) are still in committees.

Public Safety and Gun Violence

Prevention: SB 719 (Extreme Risk Protection Order, which allows the removal of guns from people deemed harmful to self or others) passed the Senate and is in

House Rules! SB 1065 (Boyfriend/Charleston gun loopholes) and HB 3078 (reducing excessive sentences, reinvesting in addiction, mental health treatment and victim services) are still alive. Three bills that protect victims of sex crimes have now passed both chambers and one has been signed into law!

Fair Elections and Governance: HB 2927 (National Popular Vote) passed the House last week, and I was honored to carry it on the floor. It has now passed the House four times; please encourage [Senate President Peter Courtney](#) to bring it to the Senate floor. HB 2578 (Small Donor Elections) and HB 2577 (Transparency in Lobbying) have also passed committees and have a chance of passing.

You can learn more about these bills by clicking on the links in the [bill list](#). As always, call our office if you have feedback and questions about how to help support bills.

7. Budget and Revenue Town Hall



Introducing NPV bill on the House Floor



Join us to discuss the proposed revenue packages!

June 3, 10-11:30am
Benson Polytechnic High School
546 NE 12th Ave, Portland

8. Good bye Riley; hello Ethan!

Before heading back to Seattle for a summer internship at the UW Tribal Law clinic, our Willamette University intern, Riley Burton, helped train Ethan Livermore as our new T/Th intern.

A native of Southeast Portland, Ethan's family comes from the Yakima Nation Reservation in Central Washington, the Philippines, and across the United States. Ethan just graduated from Concordia University, where he was a Club Commissioner on student Government after serving as student body president at Cleveland High School - all while running cross country and track and field! It's great to have Ethan jump in where Riley left



Ethan all smiles with Reps Helm and Nosse on the House Floor

off, along with continuing interns Sandra Hernandez-Lomeli and Stefan Saing.

That's it for now. Please stay tuned for my next newsletter to keep up with the happenings in Salem!

Warmly,

Alissa