



State Representative **Alissa Keny-Guyer**



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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The 78th Legislative Assembly is officially half way over; we've gotten a lot accomplished, but there is still much to do! Last Tuesday marked the first deadline, when bills had to pass their first policy committee - or die.

Learn more about which bills are surviving (and need your support!), which have been signed into law, and which have died. Join my next **CONSTITUENT COFFEE TOMORROW** after the 82nd Avenue of the Roses Parade, from noon - 1:30 at Mocha Express, 1951 SE 82nd Ave.

My Priority Bills



Jerry Gabay and Julie Magers testifying for better mental health policies

Most of my personal bills passed out of the Health Care Committees, including health care for all children, three mental health bills, five oral health bills, radon assessment in schools, 12-month contraceptive care, and certified nurse midwifery hospital privileges. Many of these have already passed the House and are now in the Senate.

My other bills went to committees on Human Services and Housing, Transportation and Economic Development, Measure 91 (Marijuana), Consumer Protection and Economic Development, and the Senate Environment Committee. Some bills are progressing, such as my Toxic-Free Children's Act, and the Crematorium bill promoted by my Montavilla constituents. Others have turned into task forces, such as the Youth Bus Pass bill.

Most of the amending happens during the first 2½ months. My job over the next 2½ months is to make sure they get through Ways and Means (if there is money attached) and through both chambers of the Legislature.

The House Human Services and Housing Committee



Foster youth testifying for the two bills they brought to the Legislature

I am honored to chair a committee that focuses on our most vulnerable populations. For the first time in years, we significantly reshaped and expanded programs that help low-income families climb out of poverty: Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Employment-Related Day Care (ERDC), the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credits, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and a new tax credit for businesses hiring disabled and low-income youth. I am especially grateful to my co-chairs, Representatives Piluso and Stark, for their leadership on the TANF bill.

Housing is one of the most critical factors in ensuring that people can lead healthy, secure lives. Our committee made significant strides in expanding housing options by supporting \$100 million in bonding to construct housing for low-income families, by lifting the ban on Inclusionary Zoning, by enabling people to stay in their homes when their income rises or when their manufactured park landlord wants to sell, and by finding more land for housing.

Tracking our Legislative Agenda

See the attached [list](#), which highlights some of my personal bills, my committee bills, and other bills of particular importance - like the economic justice ("fair shot"), environment, and gun safety bills. I am still eagerly awaiting a transportation package, but there is no bill number yet as we wait for a compromise. I update and email this list periodically, adding new bills and removing ones that have died. To keep up more frequently, sign up for my twitter [@alissakg](#) and "like" my [Facebook](#) page.

The [Oregon Legislative Information System](#) is a comprehensive way to read and track bills, amendments, and testimony. You can submit written testimony for the public record whether or not you come to Salem to testify. You can sign up for email alerts when a bill moves, and watch live or taped video recordings of hearings.

K-12 Education

In addition to passing specific bills, our biggest responsibility is passing departmental budgets. K-12 always attracts the most attention! On April 6th, the legislature passed the \$7.255 billion K-12 budget. This is the earliest we have passed a K-12 budget in decades, allowing school districts to plan their next year's budget sooner than ever.



Constituent Greg Burrill at a Capitol rally to support schools and Health Care for All

After a \$1 billion funding increase last biennium, we increased the budget this biennium to include all-day Kindergarten as well as additional resources for English Language Learners, students with disabilities, and low-income students. With a 25% increase over the 2011-13 budget, we have made a lot of progress - but still have a long ways to go on the base budget.

While this budget allows Portland Public Schools to hire more teachers due to the teachers' levy passed by PPS voters, David Douglas School District joins other school districts in worrying that the budget will result in cuts. I will continue to work with my colleagues to ensure that this does not happen.

The bill we passed contains a trigger that ensures that the K-12 budget will continue to be a priority as more money becomes available. If the May revenue forecast is higher than the March forecast, 40% of that new revenue will go towards education funding. That is the first time we've promised any increase in revenue forecast to any budget item.

Many parents wonder why we spend money on the SBAC testing, given the loss of financial and technological resources, lost instructional time, and student anxiety. I supported HB 2655, which protects student privacy, standardizes opt-out policies, and promotes a conversation between the school and families about testing. While the SBAC roll-out has been fraught with problems, I do value standardized testing when developed by teachers and used to inform teachers, schools, districts, and the state about successes, challenges, and needs. I support the sunset provision to make sure we re-examine our opt-out policies, and to keep the pressure on the education system to formulate an appropriate testing policy.

Budget Challenges and Revenue Reform

While K-12 funding is barely holding steady, higher education funding has fallen farther and farther behind, forcing our students into debt. The health and

human services budget must shave \$140 million from the Governor's proposed budget, and the public safety budget is also taking a big hit.

These cuts are in part due to the personal kicker, which is projected to return \$350 million in revenue to taxpayers this year. I strongly support diverting all or part of that kicker to the budget areas that badly need the funds. I also support other ways to promote revenue reform this session:

- Ensure that legislators and the public have good information about the costs and benefits of Oregon tax expenditures so we can determine if these tax breaks are working as intended;
- Require all corporations to pay Oregon's corporate minimum tax;
- Prevent companies from avoiding paying their fair share of Oregon taxes by hiding revenue in offshore tax havens.

Given that we can only raise taxes in the legislature with a 3/5 majority, we may have to pass these and other revenue measures at the ballot box. I will continue to work both inside and outside the Capitol towards a more fair, stable, and adequate revenue system.

District News



Grand opening of the Portland Mercado

Last week the [Portland Mercado](#), Portland's first Latino public market, celebrated its official grand opening on 72nd and SE Foster Avenue. This new enterprise of Latino entrepreneurs is bringing great Latin American food, products, and cultural entertainment to the heart of my district. The event was the culmination of vision and hard work of many community partners, led by Hacienda CDC and supported by the Portland Development Commission (PDC), the US government, and many local funders. I encourage you to visit the Mercado for coffee, pastries, a meal, or groceries between 9am-9pm any day. I will hold a constituent coffee there soon!

On a less happy note, TMobile wants to place a 63-foot cell phone tower in the middle of the Mt Tabor Neighborhood. Many young families live right next to the proposed location, and one family has a mom and daughter with a rare form of cancer. I share their concern over aesthetic and health impacts. Sadly, FCC federal regulations do not allow cities to consider health impacts when placing towers. While this is a federal and city issue rather than a state issue, I will lend

whatever support I can to stop the placement of this tower in the heart of the neighborhood.

So as not to end on that downer note, I applaud all the great events in the district, including two tomorrow: [82nd Avenue of the Roses parade](#), departing from the Eastport Plaza at 9:30am, and the Mount Tabor Neighborhood Clean Up from 9am - 1pm at Mt Tabor Middle School. Feel free to write me about in-district events, and I'm happy to advertise them on my [Facebook](#) page and [Twitter](#).

Many thanks to so many of you who visit and write me with your concerns and ideas, and who do so much for our district and our state.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alissa".

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