



*from the office*

*of*

## **Republican Deputy Leader Tim Knopp**

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### **Senate Republican Deputy Leader Tim Knopp rolls out child care plan**

SALEM, Ore.-Senate Republican Deputy Leader Tim Knopp, of Bend, is championing a plan to expand child care affordability in Oregon.

"Working parents in Oregon deserve access to affordable, quality child care," said Knopp. "Our measure will help Oregonians increase savings on child care expenses by fixing our broken tax policy."

[Senate Bill 594](#) will restore working families' access to savings on employment-related child care expenses. SB 594 increases the amount of available child care credit by doubling applicable percentage of child care expenses allowed as credit.

"Working women are burdened by child care costs and thus we are losing talented women in the workplace," Knopp noted. "By responsibly making child care more affordable and more accessible, we will amplify our workforce's potential, and help address pay equity for women."

In Oregon, infant care costs exceed college tuition costs, per data from the [Economic Policy Institute](#). In Oregon, [annual college tuition](#) was at about \$8,616, compared to \$11,322 for infant care and \$8,787 for care for a 4-year-old.

The United States Department of Agriculture issued a report, "[Expenditures on Children by Families, 2015](#)," commonly referred to as "The Cost of Raising a Child." The cost for an everyday family to raise a child born in 2015 to age 18 is \$233,610, a [3 percent increase](#) from

the previous year. This translates to [as much as almost \\$14,000 annually](#).

[Nearly half of mothers leave full-time jobs when they have children](#). Only 74 percent of women will rejoin the professional workforce in any capacity, and only 40 percent will return to full-time jobs. Nationally, [39 percent](#) of single moms and moms with young children have incomes below the poverty level. [Gov. Kate Brown has acknowledged Oregon has among the least affordable child care in the nation](#), with relatively high costs and relatively low median state income.

Knopp added:

"Current state law isn't working for working families, so let's change it. Oregonians are counting on bipartisan support for this bill."

The proposal would apply to tax years beginning on or after Jan. 1, 2016, and before Jan. 1, 2022.

Senate Bill 594 is [scheduled](#) to be heard Feb. 20 at 1:00 PM in Hearing Room D.

The bill overview can be read [here](#).

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