



OFFICE OF THE HOUSE SPEAKER

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NEWS RELEASE

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Legislature Adjourns 2017 Legislative Session

SALEM – The Oregon House of Representatives adjourned “sine die” today, three days before the July 10 constitutional deadline for adjournment. House Speaker Tina Kotek (D – North Portland) released the following statement:

“The 2017 legislative session began in a time marked by uncertainty.

“In the aftermath of the Presidential election, many of our communities were reeling from a spike in hate crimes, harassment and bullying. The state’s budget faced a \$1.8 billion deficit, and there was no clear path to resolve it.

“In the House of Representatives, nearly a quarter of our 60 members were being sworn in to their first term.

“In the face of these historic challenges, we stayed true to Oregon’s priorities. We focused on passing policies and funding programs that will improve people’s lives.

“After a year of outreach and study, we passed a package of transportation investments that will support 16,000 jobs, relieve congestion, improve safety, and make the first-ever statewide investment in public transit.

“We approved legislation that will protect working families and workers’ rights – including the strongest equal pay bill and the first fair work week law in the nation.

“We made major strides in criminal justice reform – including bills that will prioritize treatment and rehabilitation over incarceration for non-violent offenders and continue Oregon’s work to end profiling by law enforcement.

“While Congress pushed a plan to repeal the Affordable Care Act and strip coverage from millions of Americans, we passed a critical funding package to ensure health care coverage for more than one million low-income Oregonians on the Oregon Health Plan. We also expanded access to reproductive health care and made sure every child in Oregon can have health insurance.

“Of course, we didn’t succeed in everything we set out to do this session. We made strides to address Oregon’s housing crisis, but we didn’t pass sorely needed tenant protections. We fought like hell to get to a long-term budget deal so we could finally stabilize our finances and make meaningful investments in Oregon’s schools. We couldn’t get it done, but we did lay the groundwork for success in 2019. At the end of the day, we passed a balanced budget focused on education and other essential services.”

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