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NEWS RELEASE

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Tina Kotek to step down following historic tenure as Oregon House Speaker

*Longest-serving Speaker in Oregon history led on progressive victories for
education funding, health care access, housing, climate and more*

SALEM – After nine years of progressive accomplishments as the leader of the Oregon House of Representatives, Speaker Tina Kotek today announced she will step down from her roles as Speaker of the House and state representative for House District 44 (N/NE Portland). Her final day in office will be Friday, January 21.

“Serving as Speaker of the House and representing my community in the legislature has been an amazing honor, and I am forever grateful to my constituents, my colleagues, and the entire state for the opportunity to serve,” Kotek said. “After considerable reflection, I have decided to step down from the legislature before the upcoming session. I have spent the past few months working hard with my colleagues to set a session agenda that includes essential investments in the services Oregonians need and paves a path forward on important issues for workers, our natural resources, and economic growth. I have faith in my colleagues to get everything over the finish line next month.

“As for my nine years as Speaker, I am proud of the historic accomplishments the legislature has delivered for Oregonians, and I leave the role knowing that our efforts will benefit Oregonians now and well into the future. Having achieved these victories as Speaker, I am shifting my attention to ensure that they are implemented in ways that improve the lives of people in every corner of Oregon.”

Kotek became the first openly lesbian speaker of any state house in the nation in 2013. During her tenure as the longest-serving House Speaker in Oregon history, she championed solutions to increase funding for public education, guarantee the strongest reproductive health care policy in the country, address the needs of working families, expand access to health insurance, address the state's housing crisis, and reduce pollution that contributes to climate change.

Among the highlights of her tenure was the passage of the Student Success Act in 2019. Following decades of chronically underfunding Oregon's K-12 schools, Kotek led the years-long effort to sustainably increase public education funding by over \$1 billion per year. This funding creates unprecedented investment in early childhood education, ties new K-12 funding to specific investments, helps to close the opportunity gap for historically underserved students, and supports a strong economy that will create a brighter future for students, families, communities and businesses across the state.

The corporate activities tax to pay for these education investments has provided greater stability to the state's previously unpredictable revenue system, thereby preventing drastic cuts to essential services during economic downturns. Kotek's budget management has made Oregon one of the most-prepared states in the country for future recessions, according to an [independent analysis](#).

With increasing threats at the national level to dismantle access to abortion, Kotek led the effort in 2017 to pass the strongest reproductive health care access law in the country, the Reproductive Health Equity Act (RHEA). Thanks to her leadership, access to the full suite of reproductive health care will be protected in Oregon no matter what happens at the U.S. Supreme Court.

In a time when many states across the country have rejected the expansion of health care coverage after the passage of the Affordable Care Act, Kotek pushed to ensure that all Oregonians have access to coverage regardless of their income or citizenship status. More than one million Oregonians now have health care coverage through the Oregon Health Plan.

Kotek also led the way on critical victories for working families, including year-over-year increases in the minimum wage, access to paid sick time and retirement security, and the passage in 2019 of a new paid family and medical leave insurance program that will make sure all working Oregonians have access to paid leave to care for a new child, themselves, or a family member with a serious health condition.

Housing has long been among Kotek's top priorities, highlighted by the passage of two landmark bills in 2019. House Bill 2001 made Oregon the first state in the nation to relegalize "missing middle" housing like duplexes, triplexes and quads in areas where they were previously banned,

giving communities across the entire state more options for needed housing. It is now viewed as a national model for increasing housing choice across the country. Senate Bill 608 provided critical protections for Oregon renters by establishing a just-cause eviction standard and prohibiting extreme rent increases. It was the first statewide rent stabilization law in the nation.

As Oregon and the nation have faced the worsening effects of climate change, Kotek protected the state's Clean Fuels Program and supported the state's commitment to 100% clean electricity by 2040, which included a \$50 million investment to jumpstart more community renewable projects in Oregon. She also prioritized the passage of new requirements for the Metro counties to transition to cleaner truck engines to reduce harmful diesel pollution.

Making Oregon's criminal justice system fairer and more effective has been another priority for Kotek. She took up the recommendations of Governor Kitzhaber's Commission on Public Safety in her first term to pass a package of reforms that prevented the need to build a new prison so resources could be better spent at the county level for addiction and mental health treatment, housing, and victim services. Four years later she supported legislation to prevent the need to open a second prison for women. And in 2019 she spearheaded the passage of historic youth justice reforms to hold young offenders accountable in juvenile court where their developmental needs are better understood and addressed.

Kotek stood firm against extremists to pass new gun violence prevention laws. This includes expanded background checks for gun purchases, prohibitions on the possession of guns by domestic abusers and stalkers, and allowing family members to obtain an Extreme Risk Protection Order to prevent suicides and shootings in moments of extreme mental distress. She also reduced the risk of shooting deaths by pursuing legislation to require guns be stored safely and allowing public universities, community colleges, and school districts to prohibit concealed carry of firearms on campuses.

See the list below for a more comprehensive list of accomplishments during Speaker Kotek's leadership of the Oregon House.

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Education

Tuition Equity (HB 2787 - 2013)

- Expanded in-state college tuition to all qualified Oregonians, regardless of immigration status, saving non-citizens and veterans thousands of dollars in education costs. Tuition equity legislation had previously passed the Senate twice, but first cleared the House during Kotek's first term as Speaker.

Summer Learning Grants (HB 4117 - 2014)

- Created a targeted grant program to improve student achievement at some of the highest need schools in Oregon, funding summer learning programs to add valuable learning time for over 5,000 of the state's most vulnerable students.

Full-Day Kindergarten Funding (HB 5017 - 2015)

- A historic K-12 budget funded full-day kindergarten for the first time in Oregon's history and ensured that low-income kids can eat lunch and boosted support for English language learners and high-needs students.

Expanded Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Programs (HB 2545 - 2015)

- Provided free school lunch to Oregon students eligible for reduced-price lunch.

Expanded Eligibility for Oregon Opportunity Grant (SB 932 - 2015)

- Allowed first-generation students who graduated from Oregon high schools but were unable to prove legal residency to apply for and receive Oregon Opportunity Grant funding.

Supported Equitable Outcomes for Students

- Started the African American/Black Student Success Plan (HB 2016 - 2015), directed school districts to improve outcomes for English language learners (HB 3499 - 2015), and secured the implementation of Measure 98 (HB 2246 - 2017) to increase high school graduation rates and improve college and career readiness.

Student Success Act (HB 3427 - 2019)

- Provided \$1 billion per year in new funding for Oregon's preK-12 education system by creating a corporate activity tax on businesses that generate more than \$1 million in annual Oregon sales. The bill also included a personal income tax reduction for every Oregonian. These new dollars, from fully funding CTE/STEM programs to requiring targeted investments based on community-led planning, are designed to improve student outcomes, particularly for students of color and English language learners.

Summer Learning and Child Care Funding (HB 5042 - 2021)

- \$250 million for a summer learning and child care package to help students and families recover from the educational and emotional losses of the first year of the pandemic. Combined with about \$75 million in federal funds, both district matching funds and funding for the Employment

Related Day Care Program, as much as \$325 million total was dedicated to summer and early learning programs.

Housing

Non-Discrimination by Source of Income (HB 2639 – 2013)

- Made it illegal to discriminate against renters who use the federal Housing Choice/Section 8 voucher program or other assistance to pay their rent.

Affordable Housing Tax Exemption (HB 2690 - 2015)

- Encouraged the supply of affordable housing by exempting certain land from property taxes if it will be used to build dwellings for low-income Oregonians.

LIFT Housing Program (SB 1582 - 2016)

- Developed the Local Innovation and Fast Track (LIFT) Housing Program to expand the state's supply of affordable housing utilizing the state's bonding authority.

Expanding Affordable Housing Tools (SB 1533 - 2016)

- Ended the bans on inclusionary zoning and construction excise taxes to help local governments meet their responsibility to ensure more Oregonians have access to safe and affordable housing.

Removing Local Barriers to Housing Development (SB 1051 - 2017)

- Increased the supply of market rate and affordable housing by removing barriers to development at the local level, including expediting permitting for affordable housing, increasing options for developing accessory dwelling units (ADUs), and allowing religious organizations to build affordable housing on their property.

Affordable Housing Preservation (HB 2002 - 2017)

- Provided the state or local governments with an opportunity to purchase publicly supported housing that is at risk of flipping to market rate and protected long-term affordability for units built with public dollars.

Just Cause Evictions and Rent Stabilization (SB 608 - 2019)

- Provided critical protections for Oregon renters by establishing a just-cause eviction standard and prohibiting extreme rent increases. It was the first statewide rent stabilization law in the nation.

Missing Middle Housing (HB 2001 - 2019)

- Made Oregon the first state in the nation to relegalize “missing middle” housing like duplexes, triplexes and quads in areas where they were previously banned, giving communities across the entire state more options for needed housing. It is now viewed as a national model for increasing housing choice across the country.

Planning for More Housing (HB 2003 – 2019)

- Required cities over 10,000 people to study the future housing needs of their residents and develop strategies that encourage the production of housing their residents need. Included a Regional Housing Needs Analysis to investigate a program where housing need is estimated and allocated on a regional level.

Housing Investments (2021 Session)

- A combined \$765 million dollars for affordable housing and permanent supportive housing, down payment assistance, homeless services, tenant support, and more. A full list can be found [here](#).

Health Care

Autism Insurance Coverage (SB 365 - 2013)

- Required insurance coverage for treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Health Care Coverage During Family Leave (HB 2600 - 2015)

- Aligned Oregon family leave law with federal law to require continued health care coverage for an employee on family leave.

Nurse Staffing (SB 469 - 2015)

- Required every hospital to establish a nurse staffing committee to develop a hospital-wide staffing plan to ensure that the hospital is staffed to meet the health care needs of patients.

Cover All Kids (SB 558 - 2017)

- Provided coverage through the Oregon Health Plan to all children residing in Oregon below 300% of the federal poverty level, expanding coverage to the thousands of children who remained uninsured even after implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

Lower Insurance Premiums and Maintaining the Oregon Health Plan (HB 2391 - 2017)

- Lowered insurance premiums for many and protected health care coverage for the more than one million Oregonians who get care through the Oregon Health Plan.

Prescription Drug Price Transparency (HB 4005 - 2018)

- Created a statewide prescription drug cost and price transparency program to shine a light on how drug prices are set by requiring drug manufacturers to justify cost increases.

Oregon Health Plan Funding (HB 2010 - 2019)

- Extended an assessment on hospitals and insurers to create a six-year funding stream for the Oregon Health Plan and allow the state to obtain significant federal matching funds, protecting

the state's Medicaid expansion and the health care for Oregon families – including 400,000 children, as well as seniors and people with disabilities.

Charity Care (HB 3076 - 2019)

- Required hospitals to have a minimum requirement for community benefit and charity care, as well as establish reasonable limits to medical debt collection and establish written financial policies in commonly spoken languages for patients below 100% of the federal poverty line.

Cover All People (HB 3352 - 2021)

- Made health insurance available to all Oregonians, including low-income Oregonians who are DACA recipients, legal permanent residents, young adults who age out of Cover All Kids, and undocumented pregnant women and other adults.

Insulin Affordability (HB 2623 - 2021)

- Placed a limit on the amount a person could be charged for insulin under a health benefit plan in Oregon.

Hope Amendment Referral (SJR 12 - 2021)

- Referred a measure to voters defining “health care as a human right” in the Oregon Constitution.

Workers

Bereavement Leave (HB 2950 - 2013)

- Allowed workers to take up to two weeks of family leave following the death of a family member.

Treatment for Injured Workers (HB 4104 - 2014)

- Required health insurance plans to expedite treatment authorizations through the employee's health insurance and then work out payment with the worker's compensation insurance later.

Paid Sick Leave for All Oregonians (SB 454 - 2015)

- Made Oregon the fourth state in the country with a paid sick leave policy. Required employers with 10+ employees (or 6+ for employers in Portland) to provide their employees up to 40 hours of paid sick leave per year, and employers with less than 10 employees (or less than 6 employees for employers in Portland) were required to provide up to 40 hours of unpaid sick leave.

Wage Transparency (HB 2007 - 2015)

- Protected workers who inquire about, discuss, or disclose information about their wages or the wages of another worker.

Domestic Worker Bill of Rights (SB 552 - 2015)

- Established workplace protections for domestic workers including overtime pay, periods of rest, paid vacation time, and freedom from harassment.

Minimum Wage Increase (SB 1532 - 2016)

- Phased in minimum wage increases through a regionalized approach (\$14.75/\$13.50/\$12.50 by July 1, 2022 and specific increases after that).

Oregon Equal Pay Act (HB 2005 - 2017)

- Prohibits discrimination between employees who perform work of comparable character in the payment of wages or other compensation.

Overtime Protections (HB 3458 - 2017)

- Clarified overtime law for most manufacturing industries, capping overtime at 60 hours/week with industry-specific exemption processes put in place with BOLI.

Fair Work Week (SB 828 - 2017)

- Required notice of employee work schedules in advance to provide the employer and employee with predictable work schedules.

Right to Organize (SB 1040 - 2017)

- Protected the right for private sector labor to organize.

Wage Theft Prevention (HB 3008 - 2017)

- Protected workers from pressure to falsify timesheets by providing greater enforcement options against this practice.

Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance (HB 2005 - 2019)

- Created a paid family and medical leave insurance program where employees will have access to paid leave to care for a child during the first year after birth, adoption, or foster placement; care for themselves or a family member with a serious health condition; and help individuals experiencing domestic violence.

Workplace Fairness Act (SB 726 - 2019)

- Helped level the playing field for workers by improving workplace protections to combat harassment, including extending the statute of limitations in employment situations from 1 to 5 years, and preventing employers from requiring non-disclosure agreements or no-rehire provisions.

Public Worker Protections (HB 2016 - 2019)

- Codified best practices in Oregon's collective bargaining statutes, including allowing designated representatives reasonable work time to fulfill their duties, requiring employers to provide unions with reasonable communication access with employees in the bargaining unit, and expanding the list of unfair labor practices.

Retaliation Protection for Workers (SB 483 - 2021)

- Protected frontline workers from retaliation for reporting unsafe working conditions.

Climate

Water Storage and Conservation Funding (2015)

- Allocated \$50 million for water storage and conservation projects to primarily benefit rural areas dealing with drought conditions.

Clean Fuels Program (SB 324 - 2015)

- Established a program to reduce the carbon intensity of transportation fuel by 10 percent over the next 10 years, leading to cleaner air, fewer greenhouse gases emissions, and the development of a homegrown alternative fuels industry.

Moving Past Coal (SB 1547 - 2016)

- Prescribed a path to move Oregon completely off coal-generated power by 2030 and double renewable energy use in the state.

School Bus Emissions (SB 1008 - 2017)

- Created a grant program to retrofit or replace diesel-engine school buses.

Air Quality Regulation (SB 1541 - 2018)

- Approved and funded the Cleaner Air Oregon program designed to reduce the health risks of toxic air contaminants from commercial facilities.

Clean Diesel (HB 2007 - 2019)

- Required Metro counties to transition to clean diesel engines by 2025.

100% Clean Electricity (HB 2021 - 2021)

- Outlined the path to 100% clean electricity by 2040 and included a \$50 million investment to jumpstart more community renewable projects in Oregon.

Energy Affordability Act (HB 2475 - 2021)

- Expanded the Public Utility Commission's ability to set rates based on customer income and other social equity or environmental justice factors that affect affordability for utility customers.

Wildfire Prevention (SB 762 - 2021)

- A comprehensive plan to improve wildfire prevention and mitigation, including nearly \$200 million in investments to implement these policies and support essential workforce and local communities on the frontlines, managing and mitigating wildfires.

Clean Water Package (2021)

- A \$538.1 million water and sewer package to improve access to clean water in cities and counties across Oregon. A full list can be found [here](#).

Criminal Justice Reform and Police Accountability

Oregon Justice Reinvestment (HB 3194 – 2013)

- Passed a package of reforms that prevented the need to build a new prison so resources could be better spent at the county level for services, such as addiction and mental health treatment, housing, and victim services.

Ending Racial Profiling in Policing (HB 2002 - 2015)

- Required local law enforcement agencies to adopt policies to end racial profiling.

Police Body Cameras (HB 2571 - 2015)

- Established guidelines for law enforcement agencies to utilize body cameras.

Family Sentencing Alternative (HB 3503 - 2015)

- Created an alternative-to-incarceration program to divert non-person crime offenders who are also primary parents to serve their sentence in intensive community supervision with family wrap-around services.

Allowing DNA Exoneration for Convicted Persons (HB 3206 - 2015)

- Established a process to request DNA testing to prove innocence of an incarcerated or previously incarcerated individual convicted of a felony.

Ban the Box (HB 3025 - 2015)

- Prevented employers from asking about an applicant's criminal history on their job application to help those who have served their time have a better shot at getting their foot in the door for a job.

Safety and Saving Act (HB 3078 - 2017)

- Passed additional reforms to prevent the need to open a second prison for women.

Racial Profiling and Possession Charges (HB 2355 - 2017)

- Required data collection from law enforcement for all pedestrian and traffic stops, regular training in implicit bias and practical skills to reduce profiling, and annual reporting and review of stop data.

Youth Justice Reform (SB 1008 - 2019)

- Ensured that youth offenders will not receive automatic life sentences and will have greater access to a second look hearing.

Boosted Funding for Public Defense in Oregon (2019)

- Provided an additional \$20 million in funding for the Office of Public Defense Services to be used to stabilize caseloads and begin to ensure a constitutional level of defense.

Outlaw the Use of Respiratory Restricting Restraints (HB 4203 - 2020)

- Declared that a police officer is not justified or reasonable in any circumstance to use physical force that impedes breathing.

Duty to Report and Intervene (HB 4205 - 2020)

- Required police officers to intervene to prevent or stop another officer from engaging in an act they know or should reasonably know is misconduct.

Police Discipline Record Transparency (HB 4207 - 2020)

- Required the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training to establish a statewide online public database of records for officers whose certification has been revoked or suspended and specified the information to be provided and timeline for posting.

Protecting Speech and Assembly from Excessive Force (HB 4208 - 2020)

- Prohibited law enforcement agencies from using tear gas for crowd control except for certain circumstances.

Chokeholds and Use of Force Reform (HB 4301 - 2020)

- Updated use of force statutes with current case law, modified circumstances under which use of physical force or deadly force against another by an officer is legally justified, and required officers to give verbal warning and reasonable opportunity to comply before using physical or deadly force if reasonable opportunity to do so exists.

Enhancing Police Accountability (2021)

- Passed more than two dozen policy bills and funded new programs to begin transforming public safety systems to ensure justice, accountability, and equity for communities of color. A full list is available [here](#).

Gun Violence Prevention

Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Domestic Abusers (SB 525 - 2015)

- Aligned Oregon law with the federal Violence Against Women Act to keep firearms away from domestic abusers.

Expanding Criminal Background Checks for Private Gun Sales (SB 941 - 2015)

- Closed the loophole that allowed violent criminals and domestic abusers to purchase firearms online or through private sales without a criminal background check.

Extreme Risk Protection Order (SB 719 - 2017)

- Allowed loved ones and doctors to petition the court for an Extreme Risk Protection Order to prevent suicides and shootings resulting from moments of extreme mental distress.

Gun Violence Prevention (HB 4145 - 2018)

- Protected survivors of domestic violence by preventing people convicted of stalking and domestic violence, or under restraining orders, from buying or owning firearms and ammunition.

Firearm Removal for Stalkers and Domestic Abusers (HB 2013 - 2019)

- Closed the “restraining order loophole” in current law and created protocols by which the courts and law enforcement can ensure that people who have domestic violence convictions or stalking or restraining orders do not in fact possess firearms.

Gun Storage and Safety in Public Places (SB 554 - 2021)

- Required guns be stored safely and allowed the boards of public universities, community colleges, and school districts to prohibit concealed carry of firearms on campuses.

Voting Rights

New Motor Voter (HB 2177 - 2015)

- Expanded access to our democracy by making sure that every eligible voter receives a ballot.

On-Campus Voter Registration and Ballot Box Access (SB 1586 - 2016)

- Improved on-campus access to voter registration at public universities and community colleges, both electronically and through nonpartisan registration efforts, and required a ballot drop box within four miles of a campus.

16-Year-Old Voter Registration (SB 802 - 2017)

- Allowed pre-registration for voting at age 16.

Reproductive Rights

Diabetes Coverage During Pregnancy (HB 2432 - 2013)

- Prohibited health insurance plans from imposing additional costs on covered health services, medications or supplies medically necessary for managing of diabetes from conception through six weeks postpartum.

Improved Insurance Coverage for Pregnant Women (SB 1562 - 2014)

- Required insurers to provide full coverage of diabetes without any copays for women who are pregnant.

Improved Birth Control Coverage (HB 3343 - 2015)

- Required health insurance plans to reimburse prescription contraception for up to a full year and allowed pharmacies to dispense contraception for a full year unless a request is made by a patient for a shorter length of time.

Over-The-Counter Birth Control (HB 2879 - 2015)

- Allowed pharmacists to prescribe birth control, reducing the need for women to visit a doctor for their contraceptive prescriptions

Reproductive Health Equity Act (HB 3391 - 2017)

- Codified the right to an abortion in state law, extended post-partum, preventative, pre-natal, and pre-natal reproductive health care to undocumented women, enshrined in state law the no-cost preventative health services covered in the Affordable Care Act, and added abortions and vasectomies at no cost for all commercial health plans.

Immigrant Rights

Drivers' Licenses for Dreamers (HB 4111 - 2018)

- Allowed DACA recipients and those with temporary protected status who have an Oregon driver's license to renew those licenses through the Oregon Department of Transportation.

Expanding Higher Education Opportunities for Oregon Dreamers (SB 1563 - 2018)

- Removed the state requirement that students must file a federal identification document to be eligible for resident tuition at public universities and extended eligibility for scholarships, grants, and other financial aid to undocumented students.

Driver's Licenses for All (HB 2015 - 2019)

- Allowed residents who pass written and driving tests, pay the fees, and provide proof of identity and residency to receive a standard driver's license. The bill included anti-discrimination language and protections for people with standard licenses or ID cards that are not Real ID compliant.

Sanctuary Promise Act (HB 3265 - 2021)

- Ensured public bodies and Oregon law enforcement agencies cannot deny services, benefits and other opportunities due to immigration status or federal immigration action, or inquire about one's immigration status, unless a criminal investigation is ongoing. Ensured that immigration detention centers cannot operate in Oregon and prohibited federal immigration authorities from carrying out warrantless arrests in Oregon's courthouses and their vicinities.

LGBTQIA+ Rights

Conversion Therapy Ban (HB 2307 - 2015)

- Put an end to the dangerous, discredited "therapy" that attempts to change a child's sexual orientation.

Gender Identity Documentation (HB 2673 - 2017)

- Created an alternative process for persons seeking to change their name on vital records for the purpose of affirming gender identity.

Strengthening Hate Crimes Law (SB 577 - 2019)

- Passed the strongest hate crimes legislation in the nation, renaming the crime of intimidation to "bias crime," defining a bias incident, and making it a crime to commit a violent offense or the immediate threat of violence based on a person's membership in a protected class, including gender identity.

Pandemic Recovery

Residential Eviction Moratorium (HB 4213 – 2020, SB 282 - 2021)

- Protected tenants at risk of being evicted from their homes due to the pandemic by prohibiting residential evictions through September 30, 2020 and creating a six-month repayment grace

period after the moratorium ends for tenants to repay their back rent accrued during the moratorium.

Foreclosure Protection (HB 4204 - 2020)

- Ensured that Oregonians unable to make mortgage payments due to the COVID-19 crisis were protected from foreclosure.

Commercial Eviction Moratorium (HB 4213 - 2020)

- Protected small businesses from evictions due to the pandemic through September 30, 2020.

Unemployment Insurance Relief for Pandemic-Impacted Businesses (HB 3389 - 2021)

- Provided businesses impacted by the pandemic with \$2.4 billion of unemployment insurance relief over the next decade while keeping the state's unemployment insurance trust fund among the most solvent in the nation.

Safe Harbor Protection for Rent Assistance (SB 278 - 2021, SB 891 - 2021 Special Session)

- Created a 'safe harbor period' and enhanced notifications to protect tenants who are waiting for rent assistance from being evicted for nonpayment of rent.