



# PRESS RELEASE

NANCY NATHANSON  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 13

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## **Oregon takes a fresh look at State and County Shared Services**

*Representative Nathanson applauds approval of a task force to help breakdown bureaucracy and create a more effective and cost-efficient way to deliver services*

Salem – Representative Nancy Nathanson today applauded Governor Kulongoski for his signature of House Bill 2920, which she introduced and advocated for this past legislative session. The legislation creates a task force to re-examine our system of delivering services, with a focus on restructuring government to be more effective and cost-efficient.

“The economic crisis facing Oregon and its 36 counties is not a matter of short term cash flow. We have an economically unsustainable program of delivering services,” Nathanson states. “The solution will not come from simply asking the state and counties to consider raising additional revenue. While revenue re-structuring is being considered, government re-structuring has to be on the table as well.”

As a member of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, and several of its subcommittees, Representative Nathanson witnessed first hand redundant spending on bureaucracy, not on delivering services to Oregonians at a time when they are most needed. County and State governments run dozens of overlapping programs from helping children, families, and seniors to fighting crime.

Representative Nathanson found there to be redundant auditing of programs, but not necessarily better outcomes. There is too much accounting, but a lack of accountability. HB 2920 charges the new task force with the objective of considering a redistribution of state and county government functions. The aim is to achieve clarification and rationalization of what currently exists, and how we can transfer functions where it makes sense.

“The natural tendency is for bureaucratic systems to become more complex and tangled over time, as good ideas are piled onto existing systems. It’s our job to periodically reexamine previous decisions,” said Nathanson. “What was right at one point in time may not be optimal at this point in time.”

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