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# OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

The seal of the State of Oregon is a large, light gray watermark in the background. It features an eagle with wings spread, perched on a shield. The shield contains a ship on the left, a sun with rays in the center, and a plow on the right. The words "STATE OF OREGON" are written around the top inner edge of the seal, and "1859" is at the bottom. A banner at the bottom of the shield reads "THE UNION IS OUR STRENGTH".

**2014 Session  
Accomplishments**

Compiled by the Senate Majority Office

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# OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

## 2014 Legislative Check List

Getting Things Done for Everyday Oregonians.

While partisan gridlock and shutdown politics have frozen meaningful action in Washington, D.C., here in Oregon we provide leadership by working together to find common ground and move the state forward.

Oregon Senate Democrats delivered on Oregon's priorities: improving access to high quality K-12 and higher education, creating family-wage jobs to bolster the middle class, and making sure that state government delivers on Oregon's priorities.

We supported small businesses by promoting economic growth in both rural and urban Oregon. We worked to put vocational training and college in reach of all Oregonians so they can gain the skills to earn family-wage jobs. And we protected our most vulnerable Oregonians by boosting funding for mental health and senior services programs, while ensuring that Oregon's fiscal house is kept in order with a balanced state budget.

During the 2014 Legislative Session, Senate Democrats delivered on Oregon's priorities by:

### **Accelerating Job Growth and Improving the Economy Across Oregon**

- Modernized job training programs so that more Oregonians, whether they live in rural or urban parts of the state, can get the skills and training they need to earn family-wage jobs (SB 1566, HB 4058)
- Supported small businesses by eliminating unnecessary barriers and expanding access to loans and financial support (SB 1563, HB 4005)

### **Protecting Investments in Education and Expanding Access to Higher Education**

- Protected our historic \$6.85 billion investment in K-12 education to help stabilize school districts across Oregon and began to reverse the trend of teacher layoffs and shrinking school years (HB 5201)
- Increased access to higher education by taking steps to make community colleges and universities more affordable (SB 1524, HB 4116, HB 4019)

### **Making State Government Work to Meet Oregon's Top Priorities**

- Cut waste and held state contractors accountable for their work, specifically when they do not meet promises of quality or costs (HB 4122)
- Invested in mental health programs and crucial senior services that Oregonians rely on (HB 5201)
- Prioritized critical services that keep our communities safe and protect our most vulnerable (HB 4055, SB 1553, SB 1542)

# OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

## Education and Kids

### **SB 1524 “Oregon Promise” of Free Community College**

The cost of community college is a barrier for many Oregonians who cannot afford the cost of higher education. Senate Bill 1524 directs the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to examine the possibility of opening the doors of community college to high school graduates without requiring them to pay tuition or fees. The concept, dubbed the “Oregon Promise,” would extend two years of free community college education to Oregon students.

### **HB 4116 “Aspirations to College” Program**

To increase the number of underserved, low-income, and first generation students attending community College, House Bill 4116 directs the Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development (CCWD) and Higher Education Coordinating Commission to jointly establish a grant program for the purpose of distributing money to community colleges to increase enrollment among these populations of students. The bill appropriates \$750,000 to CCWD to support the program.

### **HB 4117 Summer Learning Grants for High Poverty Schools**

House Bill 4117 establishes a grant program to provide resources for schools that are considered high poverty and have been designated by the Department of Education as needing additional support. These grants will provide additional resources to these schools to create summer programs that will add at least 60 hours of learning time for over 5,000 of Oregon’s most vulnerable students. This funding is an extension of targeted investments made in 2013 by the Legislature to Title I ‘priority’ schools.

# OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

## Education and Kids (*continued*)

### **HB 4090 Increasing Availability of Summer School Lunch Programs**

More than half of Oregon students qualify for free or reduced-cost lunch programs. House Bill 4090 will help these students by allowing the Oregon Department of Education to award startup grants to more schools and off-campus sites that want to provide summer meals. The bill also increases the cap for these grants from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

### **HB 4058 Allowing Apprenticeships to Count Toward Education Goals**

Apprenticeship programs offer unique workforce development training and play a strong role in strengthening our communities and creating well-paid jobs. House Bill 4058 amends Oregon's 40-40-20 education goals to include apprenticeship programs registered with State Apprenticeship and Training Council as part of the "Middle 40."

### **HB 4150 Student Assessments**

In 2011, House Bill 2220 made several changes to Oregon's student assessment, grading, and proficiency-based evaluation structure to emphasize progress toward the attainment of grade level proficiency in a continuum of knowledge and skills. House Bill 4150 makes several improvements and clarifications to the goals outlined in House Bill 2220 to ensure students and teachers have more realistic goals and methods for evaluating grade level proficiency.

### **SB 1509 Acceptable Use of Native American School Mascots**

Senate Bill 1509 allows a school district to enter into a written agreement with a federally recognized Native American tribe in Oregon for use of a school mascot that represents, is associated with, or is significant to the tribe. The bill requires the agreement to describe acceptable uses of the mascot and directs the State Board of Education to meet with all nine federally recognized Native American Oregon tribes prior to starting the rulemaking process.

# OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

## Education and Kids (*continued*)

### **HB 4019 Transparency in Higher Education Outcomes**

In an ongoing effort to provide students with more information about college degree outcomes, the costs of attending college, and job placement prospects after graduation, House Bill 4019 requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to identify a federal or national entity that provides the best information about the affordability and value of institutions of higher education in Oregon. Following this annual identification, higher education institutions are then required to link to this entity's website and provide a copy to students.

### **SB 1574 Dual Credit for College-level Coursework in High School**

Current law indicates that a student may, upon completion of a course, earn credit both for high school and for a community college or public university. Senate Bill 1574 extends dual-credit options to students in any grade from 9 through 12.

### **HB 4120 Scholarship Opportunities to Children of Reserve Officers**

Existing law requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to award scholarships to children of public safety officers killed or disabled in the line of duty. The student can use the scholarship at any state public university or community college, at the Oregon Health and Science University, or any Oregon-based regionally accredited independent institution. House Bill 4120 expands eligibility for the scholarship to children of slain or disabled reserve officers and volunteer firefighters in honor of slain Oregon City Reserve Officer Robert Libke.

### **SB 1538 Charter School Limitations\***

Senate Bill 1538 allows districts that have reached certain thresholds of charter school attendance in their district to bring greater focus to charter school applications. This bill would not have affected existing charter schools. Any charter school approved outside of the bill's proposed application process would have continued to operate under their current agreements.

*\*Passed Senate, did not pass House of Representatives*

# OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

## Education and Kids (*continued*)

### **HB 4087 Task Force on School Safety**

House Bill 4087 creates the Task Force on School Safety, intended to begin development of a comprehensive approach to threat assessment and consequence management for schools in Oregon. Each and every school within the state faces a variety of threats ranging from natural hazards, such as floods and tornadoes, to fires, to hazardous materials spills, to active shooter threats. The Task Force is charged with developing a request for proposals to hire a vendor to create a secure database of floor plans for all schools within the state; and examining models of existing school safety and incident response education and training programs for first responders and school administration officials.

### **HB 4124 Youth Suicide Prevention**

Oregon's suicide rates have risen 21 percent since 2000, and as of 2010, the state's suicide rate was 41 percent higher than the national average. Oregon's Youth Suicide Prevention Plan was last updated in 1997. House Bill 4124 renames, refocuses and expands the position of Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Coordinator within the Oregon Health Authority from Public Health to Addictions and Mental Health. House Bill 4124 also requires development of a statewide Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Plan for youth 10 through 24 years of age. The coordinator will report annually to a legislative committee.

# OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

## Jobs & Economic Development

### **SB 1563 Expanding Opportunity for Small Business Loans**

Senate Bill 1563 raises the amount of support that a small business can receive through the state's Entrepreneurial Development Loan Fund to a total of \$100,000, up from the current cap of \$70,000. This program supports small businesses and startups all over Oregon, and since 2009, the program has provided more than \$1.6 million in loans to businesses in sectors ranging from natural resources to high tech.

### **SB 1566 Modernizing Job Training Programs**

To promote increased coordination of state services involving education, employment, and economic development to improve job training programs, Senate Bill 1566 assigns new duties to the Oregon Workforce Investment Board and directs them to work with local workforce investment boards to increase efficiencies and eliminate duplicative work. The policy changes in Senate Bill 1566 come from a two-year workgroup that carefully reviewed ways to improve the effectiveness and availability of job training programs in Oregon.

### **HB 4005 Creating New E-Commerce Zones**

House Bill 4005 raises the cap on the number of E-commerce zones available in the state from ten to fifteen. Established in 2002, E-commerce zones provide a tax benefit for companies that do business over the internet, including taking orders, making purchases, or providing customer service. The designation of an E-commerce zone allows qualifying businesses to receive a credit against their state taxes for investing in their E-commerce operations, which provides an incentive for businesses to locate and provide jobs in these areas.

### **HB 4058 Allowing Apprenticeships to Count Toward Education Goals**

Apprenticeship programs offer unique workforce development training and play a strong role in strengthening our communities and creating well-paid jobs. House Bill 4058A amends Oregon's 40-40-20 education goals to include apprenticeship programs registered with State Apprenticeship and Training Council as part of the "Middle 40."

# OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

## Jobs & Economic Development (*continued*)

### **SB 1518 Increasing Workplace Protections for Fire Fighters**

Senate Bill 1518 restores the ability for lead fire fighters to bargain for better workplace conditions such as safety, staffing ratios, and compensation.

### **SB 1540 Preventing Patent Infringement**

Bad faith patent infringement claims cost businesses time and money by forcing them to respond to allegations that may be incomplete or unreasonable. Senate Bill 1540 prohibits patent infringement claims in bad faith and allows a business that has received a bad faith claim to sue the party acting in bad faith under the Unlawful Trade Practices Act. The bill also allows the Department of Justice or District Attorney to investigate and prosecute such claims.

### **HB 4111 Public Infrastructure Commission**

To ensure efficiency and innovation in Oregon public infrastructure projects, House Bill 4111 establishes the Public Infrastructure Commission to research and consider new and leading edge models of public financing for transportation and municipal infrastructure. Oregon's road, bridge, sewage, and waste water infrastructure requires significant upgrades over the coming decades. House Bill 4111 aims to help the state and local governments meet this need, and allows the state to officially join a multi state effort known as the West Coast Infrastructure Exchange, which works to address public infrastructure challenges throughout the region.

### **SB 5702 Capital Construction Projects**

The Legislature authorized bonding for several construction projects around the state, including new buildings at the Central Oregon Community College/OSU Cascades campus, the Cornelius Library, the Beaverton Community Health Collaborative, and upgrades for buildings on the campuses of Oregon's universities. These projects will put people to work to construct and complete these new buildings.

# OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

## Jobs & Economic Development (*continued*)

### **SB 1527 Dislocated Worker Training**

To re-educate and re-employ Oregonians in the manufacturing and bioscience industries, Senate Bill 1527 directs the Oregon Business Development Department to work with private or public entities to develop a pilot Dislocated Worker Training Program. The Program is intended to enable unemployed and underemployed engineers and other professionals gain additional training so they may be re-employed in Oregon in the bioscience and manufacturing traded sector industry.

### **HB 4015 Improving Regional Economic Development**

Oregon's Regional Solutions network is a series of regional centers working with state agencies, non-profits, business groups, and others to build consensus to complete community and economic development projects. House Bill 4015 establishes this network in state law, and directs state agencies to participate more fully and consider regional priority projects in their budget decisions.

### **HB 4045 Continuing Education for Well Constructors**

Wells must be properly constructed to ensure public safety and protect groundwater from contamination. This bill requires continuing education courses for well constructors to help them do their work safely and in an environmentally sound manner.

### **SB 5703 Knight Cancer Challenge Investment**

Senate Bill 5703 authorizes \$200 million in bonds to pay for the construction of research labs and clinical trial space on OHSU's South Waterfront campus in Portland to boost the Knight Cancer Institute's \$1.2 billion effort to fight cancer. As a condition of this funding, the Legislature also required OHSU to invest in cancer research programs around the state. In addition to providing funding for the needed facilities, the money will also help the University's Knight Cancer Institute match a \$500 million donation pledge from Nike co-founder Phil Knight and his wife Penny.

# OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

## Rural Oregon Communities

### **SB 1541 Crop Donation Tax Credit**

To encourage food producers to donate fresh food to charities that serve individuals and families experiencing hunger and homelessness, Senate Bill 1541 provides a tax credit to partially offset the cost of harvesting, processing, storing, and transporting the donated food. The bill reinstates the crop donation tax credit program and increases the income tax credit to 15 percent of the wholesale price of the donated food.

### **SB 1514 Funding for County Parks**

Recreational vehicle fees are distributed to state and county parks for the operation and maintenance of campgrounds and related facilities. Senate Bill 1514 increases the percentage of money distributed from the registration of travel trailers, campers, and motor homes (RV fees) to county parks to be used for park improvement and maintenance, allowing more resources for outstanding county park maintenance and improvement projects.

### **HB 4078 Washington County Land Use Deal**

This bill responds to a court decision that overturned the 2010 allocation of Washington County's rural and urban reserves. House Bill 4078 directly identifies certain parcels of land in western Washington County as rural reserves, and places other parcels into the Portland Metro Urban Growth Boundary (UGB).

### **SB 1578 Biomass as Green Energy Technology\***

Senate Bill 1578 adds woody biomass (such as wood chips or debris) and other renewable energy technology as identified by the Oregon Department of Energy to the definition of "green energy technology" for the purpose of meeting the state's requirement that new buildings must be powered by at least 1.5 percent green energy sources.

*\* Passed Senate, did not pass House of Representatives*

# OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

## Rural Oregon Communities (*continued*)

### **SB 1563 Small Business Loans**

Senate Bill 1563 raises the amount of support that a small business can receive through the state's Entrepreneurial Development Loan Fund to a total of \$100,000, up from the current cap of \$70,000. This program supports small businesses and startups all over Oregon, and since 2009, the program has provided more than \$1.6 million in loans to businesses in sectors ranging from natural resources to high tech.

### **SB 1542 Affordable and Secure In-Home Care Options**

Senate Bill 1542 allows all aging and disabled Oregonians and their families to use the state's in-home care registry to hire a trained, background-checked caregiver who best meets their needs. The registry system, currently only designed for those qualified for state medical assistance programs, includes qualified caregivers in all 36 Oregon counties, and has been commended by AARP and *The New York Times* for helping seniors and people with disabilities live independently in their homes.

### **HB 4029 Damascus City Withdrawal**

House Bill 4029 authorizes owners of tracts of lands located on the Damascus city boundary and within one-half mile of another city to withdraw from the city. The measure requires the legislative body of the city to withdraw the tract of land at or immediately after a public hearing on request. This change will provide greater certainty for residents who have been caught in a years long planning process.

### **SB 1516 Salmonberry Trail**

As a result of historic storm and flood damage, the railroad through the Tillamook State Forest linking Tillamook and Banks, Oregon was closed in 2007. In 2011, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) and the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) were asked by a coalition of interests to explore the possibility of converting this rail line into a trail connection that would accommodate a mix of users including hikers, bikers, equestrians, and the Oregon Coast Scenic Railroad. Senate Bill 1516 authorizes the next step in the development of this trail by directing OPDR and ODF to develop a plan for the construction of the Salmonberry Trail along the old rail line. The bill also establishes the Salmonberry Trust Fund which will help fund the implementation of the plan.

# OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

## Affordable and Quality Health Care

### **SB 5703 Knight Cancer Challenge Investment**

Senate Bill 5703 authorizes \$200 million in bonds to pay for the construction of research labs and clinical trial space on OHSU's South Waterfront campus in Portland to boost the Knight Cancer Institute's \$1.2 billion effort to fight cancer. As a condition of this funding, the Legislature also required OHSU to invest in cancer research programs around the state. In addition to providing funding for the needed facilities, the money will also help the University's Knight Cancer Institute match a \$500 million donation pledge from Nike co-founder Phil Knight and his wife Penny.

### **SB 1582 High-Risk Insurance Pool Extension**

Senate Bill 1582 ensures that individuals with risky and costly medical conditions who had been receiving health insurance through Oregon's high-risk insurance pool don't lose coverage when they transition to new plans. The high-risk pool became obsolete because of the federal Affordable Care Act and was scheduled to end December 31, 2013, but Senate Bill 1582 extends it three months to allow more time and ensure uninterrupted coverage.

### **HB 4154 Cover Oregon Response**

House Bill 4154 responds to the delayed rollout of the Cover Oregon health insurance exchange. The measure directs the Cover Oregon board to seek federal insurance subsidies for Oregonians who would have qualified for tax breaks if they had enrolled through the exchange, and pushes to extend the individual enrollment deadline by a month in order to allow more time to complete enrollment. To provide additional accountability, House Bill 4154 extends the state's whistleblower protections to employees of Cover Oregon and allows the Governor to remove the entire Cover Oregon board of directors in a single year, until 2015.

# OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

## Affordable and Quality Health Care (*continued*)

### **SB 1542 Affordable and Secure Home Care Options**

Senate Bill 1542 allows all aging and disabled Oregonians and their families to use the state's in-home care registry to hire a trained, background-checked caregiver who best meets their needs. The registry system, currently only designed for those qualified for state medical assistance programs, includes qualified caregivers in all 36 Oregon counties, and has been commended by AARP and *The New York Times* for helping seniors and people with disabilities live independently in their homes.

### **HB 4085 Colonoscopy Coverage**

House Bill 4058 provides a clearer state requirement that health insurance plans cover all colorectal cancer screenings and laboratory tests without co-pays, deductibles, or other cost sharing charges.

### **HB 4013 Simplifying Prescription Rules**

Oregon law only allows electronic prescribing of schedule II drugs including codeine, morphine, or certain stimulants in an emergency, unlike federal law and most states. House Bill 4013 allows electronic prescription submission in non-emergency situations, subject to conditions for accountability and safety. Electronic prescribing not only allows for faster access to needed medications, but also ensures efficient and complete patient record keeping.

### **HB 4110 Saving Taxpayers Money on Inmate Health Care**

Health insurance plans generally do not cover health care for people in jail before their case is decided, which shifts the cost of their care to taxpayers as county jails have little choice but to pay for the care of those in their custody. House Bill 4110 prohibits private insurance companies from denying coverage or canceling a policy solely because the insured person is in the custody of a county jail.

# OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

## Affordable and Quality Health Care (*continued*)

### **SB 1577 Alert System for Missing Vulnerable Adults**

Senate Bill 1577 requires law enforcement agencies to have response protocols in place for seniors who go missing, especially those with dementia or Alzheimer's disease. Many law enforcement departments already have policies in place, but Senate Bill 1577 will ensure that departments across Oregon are prepared to respond to a missing adult quickly and safely.

### **HB 4108 Durable Medical Equipment**

To reduce costs for people who need expensive medical equipment, House Bill 4108 establishes a pilot project for reusing durable medical equipment, such as wheelchairs, canes, or ventilators, in a safe, functionally appropriate, and cost effective way. The pilot project will initially operate in Washington, Multnomah, Clackamas, Umatilla, Marion, and Polk Counties.

### **SB 1579 Synchronizing Prescription Refills**

Senate Bill 1579 requires each health insurance plan and coordinated care organization to implement polies to align the refill dates of a patient's prescriptions so that drugs refilled at the same frequency can be refilled at the same time.

# OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

## Public Safety

### **HB 4087 Task Force on School Safety**

House Bill 4087 creates the Task Force on School Safety, intended to begin development of a comprehensive approach to threat assessment and consequence management for schools in Oregon. Each and every school within the state faces a variety of threats ranging from natural hazards, such as floods and tornadoes, to fires, to hazardous materials spills, to active shooter threats. The Task Force is charged with developing a request for proposals to hire a vendor to create a secure database of floor plans for all schools within the state; and examining models of existing school safety and incident response education and training programs for first responders and school administration officials.

### **HB 4124 Youth Suicide Prevention**

Oregon's suicide rates have risen 21 percent since 2000, and as of 2010, the state's suicide rate was 41 percent higher than the national average. Oregon's Youth Suicide Prevention Plan was last updated in 1997. House Bill 4124 renames, refocuses and expands the position of Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Coordinator within the Oregon Health Authority from Public Health to Addictions and Mental Health. House Bill 4124 also requires development of a statewide Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Plan for youth 10 through 24 years of age. The coordinator will report annually to a legislative committee.

### **HB 4056 Methamphetamine Manufacturing Disclosure**

The process of manufacturing meth produces hazardous wastes that may be found at a site for years after contamination. Real estate sold after a foreclosure is often sold "as is" and places the burden of detecting hazardous conditions on the purchaser. House Bill 4065 requires notice of sale of a foreclosed residential home to include a statement cautioning prospective purchasers of the possibility of methamphetamine manufacturing at the property.

# OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

## Public Safety (*continued*)

### **HB 4094 Medical Immunity from Minor in Possession Charges**

Alcohol-related unintentional incidents are a leading cause of death among young people in the United States. House Bill 4094 grants underage drinkers legal immunity against prosecution of minor in possession violations if they seek medical attention due to excessive drinking. Immunity applies to underage drinkers who seek medical attention for themselves or for a friend, and does not provide immunity for other offenses. Oregon joins seventeen other states with similar laws.

### **HB 4055 Reliable Funding for 9-1-1 Answering Centers**

Wireless cell phone customers currently pay a monthly 75 cent tax to pay for 911 answering services, however, pre-paid cell phone users do not pay this tax. House Bill 4055 requires retailers that sell pre-paid cell phones to collect 75 cents per transaction and send it to the Department of Revenue. Once fully in effect, this change will generate about \$650,000 per year for 9-1-1 services.

### **HB 4028 Promoting Gambling Treatment**

To allow the Oregon State Lottery to promote its problem gambling hotline and other services to fight gambling addiction, House Bill 4028 clarifies that this purpose is a legal use of lottery funds.

### **HB 4022 Cell Phone Location Information for Emergency Responders**

To ensure that police can fully respond to a life-threatening situation, House Bill 4022 requires cell phone service providers to provide police with the best available location information of a cell phone, upon request from emergency services in a situation involving risk of death or serious physical harm.

### **HB 4086 Privacy of Transit Records**

As transit agencies begin using electronic fare systems, individually identifiable transit records are created, and could be disclosed as public records under current law. House Bill 4086 adds an exemption from public records disclosure laws to protect personally-identifiable transit records.

# OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

## Protecting Vulnerable Seniors

### **SB 1553 Public Guardian and Conservator**

Adults facing severe mental health conditions, developmental disabilities, and age-related conditions may lack the capacity to make personal, medical, and financial decisions. Without a trusted friend or family member to provide assistance, vulnerable adults must face tough life decisions without adequate support. Senate Bill 1553 establishes a statewide public guardianship program under the existing office of the state's Long Term Care Ombudsman. The bill also creates the position of Oregon Public Guardian and Conservator, who will work to provide services for seniors and other Oregonians who lack the financial services to hire a private guardian.

### **SB 1542 Affordable and Secure In-Home Care Options**

Senate Bill 1542 allows all aging and disabled Oregonians and their families to use the state's in-home care registry to hire a trained, background-checked caregiver who best meets their needs. The registry system, currently only designed for those qualified for state medical assistance programs, includes qualified caregivers in all 36 Oregon counties, and has been commended by AARP and *The New York Times* for helping seniors and people with disabilities live independently in their homes.

### **HB 4148 Senior Property Tax Deferral Interest Rate Change**

House Bill 4148 changes the interest rate paid by seniors on deferred taxes in the Senior and Disabled Property Tax Deferral Program back to simple interest. The program, which allows qualifying seniors to defer their property taxes for a specific period, currently charges compound interest on deferred taxes to keep the program solvent. With the program's balance sheet in better shape, House Bill 4148 saves seniors money by changing back to simple interest instead of the more costly compound interest calculation.

### **HB 4085 Colonoscopy Coverage**

House Bill 4085 provides a clearer state requirement that health insurance plans cover all colorectal cancer screenings and laboratory tests without co pays, deductibles, or other cost sharing charges.

# OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

## Protecting Vulnerable Seniors

### **HB 4151 Elder Abuse Prevention**

Stemming from years of work groups focusing on elder abuse prevention and monitoring, House Bill 4151 sets consistent timelines for investigations of elder abuse cases by the Department of Human Services (DHS) and directs DHS to adopt policies for the development of an electronic database of abuse reports and to standardize investigation and reporting practices. The bill will also establish a registry of people working or seeking to work in elder care facilities by January 1, 2015.

### **HB 4114 Court Appointed Special Advocates**

One of the mechanisms used in Oregon to assist an individual with intellectual or developmental disabilities is through the court appointment of a guardian or conservator when an individual has been determined to be incapable of making decisions. In many cases these appointments may be appropriate; however, there is currently no oversight from the court. House Bill 4114 gives local courts and judges authority to appoint a special advocate to “protected persons.” Special Advocates will be judicially appointed to monitor existing court guardianships to ensure that protected persons are receiving adequate services from their guardians, that they are not subject to abuse or neglect, and whether the guardianship is still appropriate.

# OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

## Helping Struggling Families

### **HB 4148 Senior Property Tax Deferral Interest Rate Change**

House Bill 4148 changes the interest rate paid by seniors on deferred taxes in the Senior and Disabled Property Tax Deferral Program back to simple interest. The program, which allows qualifying seniors to defer their property taxes for a specific period, began charging compound interest on deferred taxes in 2011 to help keep the program solvent. With the program's balance sheet now in better shape, House Bill 4148 saves seniors money by changing back to simple interest instead of the more costly compound interest calculation, beginning in 2016.

### **SB 1542 Affordable and Secure Home Care Options**

Senate Bill 1542 allows all aging and disabled Oregonians and their families to use the state's in-home care registry to hire a trained, background-checked caregiver who best meets their needs. The registry system, currently only designed for those qualified for state medical assistance programs, includes qualified caregivers in all 36 Oregon counties, and has been commended by AARP and *The New York Times* for helping seniors and people with disabilities live independently in their homes.

### **HB 4038 Preserving Affordable Housing in Manufactured Home Parks**

Manufactured home parks across Oregon provide affordable housing for seniors, new families, and low income Oregonians. The current process by which the owner of a manufactured home park may sell the park to its tenants is complex and cumbersome. House Bill 4038 streamlines the process, providing better notice to tenants and greater flexibility for owners. This bill will allow tenants of manufactured home parks a greater opportunity to buy their park and preserve their investment in their home.

### **SB 1553 Public Guardian and Conservator**

Adults facing severe mental health conditions, developmental disabilities, and age-related conditions may lack the capacity to make personal, medical and financial decisions. Without a trusted friend or family member to provide assistance, vulnerable adults must face tough life decisions without adequate support. Senate Bill 1553 establishes a statewide public guardianship program under the existing office of the state's Long Term Care Ombudsman. The bill also creates the position of Oregon Public Guardian and Conservator, who will work to provide services for seniors and other Oregonians who lack the financial services to hire a private guardian.

# OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

## Helping Struggling Families (*continued*)

### **SB 1571 Restoration Companies\***

Senate Bill 1571 gives victims of a man-made or natural disaster a five day period in which they can rescind a contract with a restoration company after a disaster. Additionally, the restoration company must notify the customer of their right to rescind the contract. Restoration companies provide the repair, restoration, and clean up services required after a natural disaster, property crime, or other sudden, damaging event. These protections would help put an end to predatory fire-chasing practices used by some companies to solicit business immediately after a disaster.

### **HB 4104 Ensuring Injured Workers Get Treatment**

When a worker is injured at work and needs treatment, it can take months to confirm that the employer's worker's compensation insurance will accept or deny the claim, which can delay treatment for the injured worker despite existing laws designed to ensure that urgent treatment needs are met. House Bill 4104 requires the employee's health plan to expedite treatment authorizations through the employee's health insurance, then work out payment with the worker's compensation insurance later. This change will help ensure that injured workers get treatment first instead of waiting to determine details of insurance reimbursement.

### **SB 1541 Crop Donation Tax Credit**

To encourage food producers to donate fresh food to charities that serve individuals and families experiencing hunger and homelessness, Senate Bill 1541 provides a tax credit to partially offset the cost of harvesting, processing, storing, and transporting the donated food. The bill reinstates the crop donation tax credit program and increases the income tax credit to 15 percent of the wholesale price of the donated food.

### **HB 4090 Summer School Lunch Program**

More than half of Oregon students qualify for free or reduced-cost lunch programs. House Bill 4090A will help these students by allowing the Oregon Department of Education to award startup grants to more schools and off-campus sites that want to provide summer meals. The bill also increases the cap for these grants from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

*\*Passed Senate, did not pass House of Representatives*

# OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

## Energy and Environment

### **HB 4126 Preserving the Renewable Portfolio Standard**

Under Oregon's Renewable Portfolio Standard, utilities are required to deliver a percentage of the electricity they provide from eligible renewable sources by 2025. House Bill 4126 provides flexibility for smaller rural electric cooperatives to grow without a significant cost to their customers, since some rural utilities have come close to the threshold for large utilities that requires costly energy portfolio changes.

### **HB 4139 Pollinator Protection Act**

Bee populations in Oregon and around the globe are declining at alarming rates. Last summer, multiple local incidents of bee die-offs occurred, most noticeably a preventable one of improper use of pesticides in a Wilsonville parking lot killing 50,000 bumblebees. House Bill 4139 directs the Oregon Department of Agriculture to continue their efforts to improve education for licensed pesticide applicators and forms a task force to consider ways to protect pollinators like bees.

### **SB 1520 Community Renewable Energy Co-Ops**

Senate Bill 1520 removes a barrier to forming shared renewable energy cooperatives by exempting them from securities registration, along with fishing cooperatives, agricultural cooperatives, and cooperative groceries. Senate Bill 1520 helps those without a physical location, or those without funds to finance a renewable energy installation on their own, to form cooperative corporations for this purpose without the up front expense and complexity of securities registration.

### **HJM 201 Urging Safer Crude Oil Transport**

In 2013, oil trains spilled more oil in the U.S. than in every year between 1975 and 2012 combined. As oil production in Canada and the north-central United States increases, more and more oil is being transported through Oregon by rail, threatening people, communities, and the environment. This memorial urges Congress to enhance safety standards for rail cars that transport crude oil and other flammable liquids.

### **HB 4078 Washington County Land Use Deal**

This bill responds to a court decision that overturned the 2010 allocation of Washington County's rural and urban reserves. House Bill 4078 directly identifies certain parcels of land in western Washington County as rural reserves, and places other parcels into the Portland Metro Urban Growth Boundary (UGB).

# OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

## Energy and Environment (*continued*)

### **HB 4041 Energy Improvement Program Expansion**

Local governments are currently authorized to finance loans for small-scale local energy projects for renewable energy and renewable energy efficiency improvements by either issuing revenue bonds or by borrowing funds from the Oregon Department of Energy under the Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Technologies Loan Program. House Bill 4041 expands this program by authorizing local governments to facilitate private financing of energy improvements by property owners, in addition to bonding and borrowing.

### **HB 4042 Renewable Marine Energy**

Net metering enables utility customers to offset some or all of their energy use with onsite renewable energy generation and be billed for only the net energy consumed. House Bill 4042 adds renewable marine energy to the types of energy for which availability of net metering is required, placing renewable marine energy on equal footing with other renewable energy types.

### **HB 4107 Extension of the Alternative Fuel Vehicle Program**

The Alternative Fuel Vehicle Revolving Fund provides loans to Oregon's public bodies and federally recognized tribes to assist in the purchase of new alternative fuel vehicles and help convert existing gasoline or diesel vehicles to alternative fuels. House Bill 4107 extends this program to private businesses or companies that operate a fleet of motor vehicles in areas subject to motor vehicle inspection (Portland and Medford). This bill is designed to help improve air quality in some areas of the state by extending the Alternative Fuel Vehicle Revolving Fund to certain private businesses in areas with heavy emissions.

### **SB 1578 Biomass as Green Energy Technology\***

Senate Bill 1578 adds woody biomass (such as wood chips or debris) and other renewable energy technology as identified by the Oregon Department of Energy to the definition of "green energy technology" for the purpose of meeting the state's requirement that new buildings must be powered by at least 1.5 percent green energy sources.

*\* Passed Senate, did not pass House of Representatives*

# OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

## Helping Our Veterans

### **SB 1506 Military Children Education Compact**

Senate Bill 1506 enables Oregon to join the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and establishes the State Council for Educational Opportunity for Military Children. The Council will provide a central point of contact for military families moving to Oregon to help transfer student records from the originating school district to the new school district. Previously, Oregon was one of six states not in the compact.

### **HB 4021 In-State Tuition for Veterans in Graduate School**

In an effort to lower the cost burden of higher education for Oregon's veterans, House Bill 4021 requires public universities and community colleges to charge in-state tuition for a veteran graduate student with either an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions, beginning September 15, 2014, if the student can show physical presence in Oregon within 12 months of enrollment.

### **HB 4023 Warm Springs Veterans Highway and Veterans Hiring Preference**

House Bill 4023 permits the dedication of the "Warm Springs Veterans Memorial Highway" on a portion of U.S. Highway 26 within Warm Springs Reservation. The bill also states that private employers may prefer to hire and promote service members; veterans; surviving spouses of deceased veterans; and spouses of veterans totally disabled from enemy action or a service-related accident.

### **HB 4081 Charity Oversight**

To ensure that Oregon's charitable organizations are spending donations on program services, rather than administrative overhead, the Legislature gave the Attorney General the authority to issue an order to disqualify a charitable organization from receiving tax-deductible contributions if 30 percent or less of the charitable organization's total annual expenses were spent on program services. House Bill 4081 provides further oversight and enforcement tools by allowing suspension, revocation, or denial of the registration of a charitable organization that willfully fails to provide required information or provides misleading or false statements on registration documents or annual reports.

# OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

## Government Efficiency and Accountability

### **HB 4122 Improved Oversight for IT Projects**

In response to delayed or ineffective state information technology projects, House Bill 4122 requires an independent quality assurance review for all public information technology projects that cost more than \$5 million or meet specific criteria. In order to make sure the additional oversight leads to appropriate action, the bill also requires that oversight reports are sent to the right people who can review them promptly and act quickly to rectify any problems identified in the reports.

### **HB 4154 Cover Oregon Fixes**

House Bill 4154 responds to the delayed rollout of the Cover Oregon health insurance exchange. The measure directs the Cover Oregon board to seek federal insurance subsidies for Oregonians who would have qualified for tax breaks if they had enrolled through the exchange, and pushes to extend the individual enrollment deadline by a month in order to allow more time to complete enrollment. To provide additional accountability, HB 4154 extends the state's whistleblower protections to employees of Cover Oregon and allows the Governor to remove the entire Cover Oregon board of directors in a single year, until 2015.

### **HB 4135 State Chief Information Officer**

To improve state management of information technology projects, House Bill 4135 outlines the responsibilities of the Chief Information Officer established by the Legislature in 2013. The CIO's duties include advising agencies and executive staff to rigorously govern and manage IT initiatives, verify that agencies implemented IT projects according to specific priorities, and coordinating multi-agency IT projects.

# OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

## Balanced Budget that Protects Oregonians' Priorities

During the 2014 session, lawmakers made adjustments to the state budget in order to protect investments in education, health care, and public safety. Senate Democrats prioritized the most critical services that vulnerable Oregonians and middle class families rely on, while producing a balanced state budget.

### Highlights of the 2014 State Budget Adjustments

#### **Balancing the Budget**

Legislators rebalanced agency budgets to make modest but prudent investments in priority programs. After adjustments, the General Fund ending balance is projected to be roughly \$120 million.

#### **Education**

- Protected historic \$6.85 billion investment in K-12 education
- Provided \$750,000 to “Aspirations to College” grant program to help more students attend community college
- Allocated \$500,000 to Summer Learning Grants program to help low-performing schools in high-poverty areas
- Added \$2 million investment in Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs
- Provided \$2.3 million more in Oregon Opportunity Grants to help students pay for college
- Added funding for Employment Related Day Care to serve more families and reduce the program’s long wait list
- Protected funding for early learning programs like Oregon Pre-K

#### **Jobs and Economy**

- Authorized \$200 million in bonding for OHSU Cancer Research Institute facilities
- Invested \$1.15 million in manufacturing projects, coastal port upgrades, and dredging to improve Oregon’s shipping channels
- Added \$5 million in lottery bond proceeds for Clean Energy Works Oregon for energy upgrade projects
- Funded Regional Solutions projects that drive community and economic development

# OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

## Balanced Budget that Protects Oregonians' Priorities

### Public Safety

- Allocated \$40 million to cover the remaining costs for the 2013 wildfire season
- Restored funding to Oregon State Police to hire state troopers and buy equipment
- Rebalanced Department of Corrections budget
- Restored \$1.2 million to the Department of Justice for providing crime victims' services, investigating crimes against children, supporting district attorneys, and conducting organized crime investigations

### Services for Seniors

Approved the first \$13.3 million of an overall \$26 million investment in senior services, including:

- \$4 million more for Senior and Disabled Transit services
- \$3.3 million for long term care provider training
- \$1.3 million for allowing more Oregonians to use the state's registry of home care workers
- Funding to establish statewide Public Guardian and Conservator services

### Housing

- Added \$2 million more for emergency housing and homelessness assistance
- Allocated \$10 million to address housing issues in the community mental health system