
OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

The seal of the State of Oregon is a large, circular emblem in the background. It features an eagle with wings spread at the top, holding an olive branch and arrows. Below the eagle is a shield with a sunburst, a ship, a plow, and a sheaf of wheat. The shield is surrounded by a ring of stars. The words "STATE OF OREGON" are written around the perimeter of the seal, and the year "1859" is at the bottom. The text "2015 Session Accomplishments" is overlaid on the seal in a blue, serif font.

2015 Session Accomplishments

Compiled by the Senate Majority Office

**Oregon Senate
Democrats**

**2015 Session
Accomplishments**

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OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 AGENDA CHECK LIST

As Oregon's economy grows and recovers from unprecedented challenges, Senate Democrats are focused on looking out for families and small businesses in rural and urban Oregon. Senate Democrats secured funding for priority services in the budget and made targeted investments to continue to build a strong economic base across the state.

Oregon Senate Democrats are committed to improving access to quality K-12 and higher education, creating family wage jobs to support working families, and protecting Oregon's clean air and water for future generations. In the 2015 Session, Senate Democrats protected critical investments in senior and disability services and mental health care, worked to build an economy that works for everyone, and prioritized support for Oregonians who are struggling to get by.

During the 2015 Legislative Session, Senate Democrats delivered on Oregon's priorities:

INVESTED IN EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- ✓ Put kids first by protecting school funding and prioritizing early childhood education (*HB 5016, HB 5017, SB 213*)
- ✓ Helped more Oregon students afford higher education by supporting colleges, universities, and financial aid (*SB 81, HB 5024, HB 3063, SB 932*)
- ✓ Promoted career training by connecting students with apprenticeships, community colleges, and opportunities they need to get family wage jobs (*HB 5016, HB 3072, HB 2728, SB 418*)

STRENGTHENED OREGON BUSINESSES AND CREATE FAMILY WAGE JOBS

- ✓ Ensured Oregon-grown businesses have the resources they need to expand and create jobs (*SB 5525, HB 2734, SB 482, HB 3239, HB 2280*)
- ✓ Invested in roads, transit, aviation and rail to keep our economy on track (*HB 5005, HB 5030, HB 5040, HB 2274*)
- ✓ Promoted innovation in clean energy to support Oregon companies and power our economy (*SB 324, SB 5510*)

STOOD UP FOR RURAL OREGON COMMUNITIES

- ✓ Kept our forests healthy and productive to support rural economies and natural habitats (*HB 5024, HB 5019, HB 2997, HB 2998*)
- ✓ Prioritized critical infrastructure improvements to keep rural communities moving (*SB 306*)
- ✓ Supported Oregon farmers by more efficiently using and storing water for agriculture (*SB 266, HB 2400, HB 5030, HB 5005*)

FOUGHT FOR WORKING FAMILIES AND STRUGGLING OREGONIANS

- ✓ Made sure hard working Oregonians can support their families and save for retirement (*SB 454, HB 2960, HB 2007, HB 2015*)
- ✓ Ensured Oregonians can access mental health services where and when they need them (*SB 832, SB 226, SB 5526, SB 5506, SB 144*)
- ✓ Held insurance companies accountable for dealing with consumers and small businesses fairly (*SB 411, HB 2605*)

ENSURED EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT CRITICAL SERVICES

- ✓ Protected taxpayers from waste by strengthening contracting laws and scrutinizing tax credits (*HB 2171, HB 2375, SB 7*)
- ✓ Stretched every tax dollar by ensuring state government serves Oregonians efficiently (*HB 3535, HB 2219, HB 2173*)
- ✓ Kept our communities safe by prioritizing emergency services and focusing on crime prevention (*SB 941, SB 525, SB 3, SB 5531, HB 2270, HB 3503, SB 5506*)

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Working Families

SB 454 Paid Sick Time

With passage of Senate Bill 454, Oregon joins a growing number of states requiring a statewide paid sick time policy for workers. SB 454 requires most employers having ten or more employees to implement a sick time policy allowing an employee to earn, accrue, donate or use at least 40 hours of paid sick time per year. Additionally, the bill requires most employers who employ fewer than ten employees to implement an unpaid sick time policy. This legislative victory will ensure that Oregon workers don't have to choose between their health—or the health of their children—and their livelihood.

HB 2960 Retirement Security for Oregon Workers

House Bill 2960 creates the Oregon Retirement Savings Board, which will create a program to ensure every Oregonian has access to a portable retirement savings account starting in summer 2017. Crafted in response to the nation's looming retirement crisis, this simple savings tool will help Oregonians save for their future.

SB 81 "Oregon Promise" Free Community College

The Oregon Promise tuition waiver program is the result of years of research to design a way for the state to provide tuition-free community college to qualified Oregon students. The program will provide grants to waive tuition for eligible students attending community college in Oregon. With the passage of Senate Bill 81, Oregon becomes the second state in the country with a free community college program.

HB 2015 Improving Employment Related Day Care

House Bill 2015 will critically improve eligibility, accessibility, and quality of childcare assistance in Oregon. The bill revises the Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) program, providing one continuous year of eligibility, granting eligibility to working students and the self-employed, and providing reduced copays and incentives for providers who meet certain quality standards. Expanded eligibility and an investment of nearly \$17 million in the ERDC program under HB 2015 will shrink the current wait list by nearly one third, covering hundreds of additional eligible families.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Working Families (*continued*)

SB 468 Recovering Unpaid Wages & Holding Employers Accountable

After a worker makes a complaint that they are not being paid wages they are owed, and the Bureau of Labor and Industries conducts an investigation and orders the employer to pay the wages, some particularly bad employers move assets or change business names to avoid paying wages owed. Senate Bill 468 will help workers by allowing the Bureau to issue a garnishment order to more quickly collect wages owed to an employee after the employer has had a chance to appeal the agency's decision.

SB 969 Task Force on Reentry, Employment, and Housing

Research suggests that access to housing and employment are two of the most effective ways to reduce recidivism among formerly incarcerated persons. This population faces a number of barriers to reentry and successful reintegration into their communities. This session, the Legislature took the important step of passing "Ban the Box" legislation, which will decrease employment barriers for those with a criminal history. Senate Bill 969 builds on this work, and establishes a Task Force on Reentry, Employment and Housing to improve the experience of reentry into non-incarcerated daily living for people with a criminal conviction. The task force brings together a number of state agencies and other stakeholders to consider ways to expand employment and housing opportunities, and improve the process of reentry for this population.

HB 3257 Low Income Energy Assistance

A majority of Oregonians that take advantage of the Oregon Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program are seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, families with children under five, and others who simply cannot afford to pay their utility bill. House Bill 3257 extends the Oregon Low-Income Homes Energy Assistance Program until 2018.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Working Families (*continued*)

HB 3535 TANF Reinvestment

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is a cash assistance program administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS) for families with children living in poverty. During the recession that began in 2008, severe budget cuts were made to the TANF program. House Bill 3535 restores some of these cuts with a \$30 million investment, and makes other program changes to maximize success of the TANF program. Specifically, the bill invests \$9 million to simplify eligibility requirements, reduce the “benefits cliff” to prevent re-entry into TANF programs, and expand partnerships with community-based organizations that provide services to prevent people from needing to enter TANF in the first place.

HB 3059 Protecting the Health & Safety of Live Entertainers

Live entertainers working in Oregon include dancers, musicians, comedians, actors, and athletes, many of whom work as independent contractors. Due to a lack of whistleblower and other labor protections, many of these workers are particularly reluctant to complain about working conditions or unlawful practices occurring in venues. House Bill 3059 is a simple, first step to provide some protection for these workers. It requires the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) to publish a poster detailing the rights of independent contractors and employees who perform live entertainment, and run a toll-free hotline to field inquiries and complaints related to employment in this industry.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Standing Up for Oregon Women

SB 188 & SB 377 Cracking Down on Revenge Porn & Theft of Intimate Images

Senate Bills 188 and 377 were introduced in response to ongoing concerns about “revenge porn,” intimate images depicting sexual acts or explicit nudity, most often taken consensually within a romantic relationship and then uploaded without the consent of the person depicted after the relationship is over. Under SB 188, sharing these intimate images without the consent of the person in the image with the intent to harass, humiliate, or injure another person becomes illegal and classified as a Class A misdemeanor, elevated to a Class C felony for a second or subsequent conviction. Senate Bill 377 updates Oregon’s computer crime law to prohibit theft of an intimate image from a computer or other digital device.

SB 454 Paid Sick Time

Senate Bill 454 requires most employers having ten or more employees to implement a sick time policy allowing an employee to earn, accrue, donate or use at least 40 hours of paid sick time per year. Women are more likely to work in the kinds of jobs that don’t offer paid sick time—retail, food service, caregiving, and part-time unbenefited work—and are also more likely to need access to paid time off to take care of the kids and other family members who depend on them. With the passage of SB 454, Oregon joins a growing number of states requiring a statewide paid sick time policy for workers, a victory that will ensure that working women in Oregon won’t have to choose between their health—or the health of their children—and their livelihood.

SB 525 Preventing Gun Violence in Domestic Violence Situations

Senate Bill 525 will protect families by bringing Oregon laws into alignment with federal laws prohibiting gun possession for perpetrators of domestic violence. The bill prohibits the possession of a firearm or ammunition by most people who are subject to a restraining order or who have been convicted of certain misdemeanor crimes involving domestic violence.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Standing Up for Oregon Women (*continued*)

SB 552 Domestic Worker Protections

Domestic workers are a crucial workforce comprised primarily of women, and particularly women of color. They provide in-home services such as childcare, cooking, and housekeeping. Senate Bill 552 establishes workplace protections for primarily domestic workers who live in the home they serve, and classifies violations as unlawful employment practices. The protections for domestic workers in SB 552 include overtime pay, periods of rest, paid vacation time, and freedom from harassment.

SB 491 & HB 2007 Equal Pay for Equal Work

In Oregon, women make on average only 79 cents for every dollar earned by men. The gender pay gap affects short-term earnings, long-term savings, retirement benefits, housing security and educational opportunities for women and the families they help support. There is no single solution to ensuring equal pay, but House Bill 2007 and Senate Bill 491 take some important steps. House Bill 2007 promotes wage transparency, by prohibiting retaliation against employees who discuss wages amongst themselves. When women don't know what their coworkers earn—and can't safely talk about wages without fear of retaliation—it can be nearly impossible for women to know if they are being paid equitably for equal work. Senate Bill 491 requires large state contractors to complete pay equity training as a condition of their bid for a public contract. The bill also protects contractor employees who discuss their wages from retaliation by their employers.

SB 759 & HB 3476 Helping Victims of Campus Sexual Assault

In response to pressing concerns about how sexual assaults cases are handled on college campuses, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 759 and House Bill 3476. Senate Bill 759 requires higher education institutions in Oregon to adopt and make public a written protocol for responding to a sexual assault involving a student, faculty, or staff member. The protocol must include information on victims' rights, and resources on- and off-campus. House Bill 3476 ensures that victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, or stalking can seek support services without compromising their privacy. Under this bill, information shared with a certified advocate will be privileged communication, kept confidential unless a victim consents to disclosure. Together, both bills will help ensure that victims are informed, supported, and respected, especially on college campuses.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Standing Up for Oregon Women (*continued*)

HB 2539 & HB 3479 Oregon's Women Veterans

Women are the fastest-growing military population, with 28,483 self-identified women veterans currently in Oregon. In the next 30 years, women are expected to make up almost one-fifth of the veteran population in the U.S. Despite this growing population of veterans, women veterans access VA benefits at a much lower rate than their male counterparts, and health services are often difficult to access across the state. House Bill 2539 directs the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) to contract for a statewide study on what kinds of medical services are available to women veterans, where, how, and when women use them, and the barriers to access across the state. House Bill 3479 creates the position of a Women Veterans Coordinator in the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA). This position within the ODVA will help women veterans and their families apply for and access benefits they are entitled to, create and distribute information targeted for women veterans and their families, and help women veterans through the appeals process if a denial of benefits occurs.

HB 2758 Patient Privacy

House Bill 2758 allows patients to request to redirect their "Explanation of Benefits" and other health care communications from their insurance company to a different address than the policy holder's. This bill will ensure that Oregonians who are covered by another person's insurance policy can maintain their privacy, a particularly important protection for women, young adults insured on a parent's plan, and survivors of violence and abuse whose safety may be tied to the confidentiality of their private health information.

HB 2960 Retirement Security for All Oregon Workers

House Bill 2960 creates the Oregon Retirement Savings Board, which will create a program to ensure every Oregonian has access to a portable retirement savings account starting in summer 2017. Women, in particular, are amongst the poorest retirees in our state by a very wide margin. This legislation ensures that our most vulnerable are able to access a way to save for themselves, and their family's future.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Standing Up for Oregon Women (*continued*)

HB 3343 & HB 2879 Improving Access to Birth Control

House Bill 3343 makes Oregon the first state in the nation to ensure that women can access a full 12-month supply of birth control, by requiring insurance companies to cover the cost up front rather than across multiple trips to the pharmacy. House Bill 2879 will allow women to obtain birth control directly from pharmacists without a doctor's visit. These bills will improve women's access and agency in using birth control, helping to support consistent birth control use, and driving down unintended pregnancies in Oregon.

HB 3503 & SB 5507 Supporting Incarcerated Mothers

Women represent the fastest-growing inmate population in Oregon, and more than 75 percent of Oregon's female prisoners are mothers, which presents a challenge in keeping families intact and healthy. House Bill 3503 creates the Family Sentencing Alternative Pilot Program (FSAP), which would allow qualified offenders who are also parents to participate in a diversion program rather than incarceration. The aim of the diversion program is to allow children to maintain a relationship with their parent, while a family receives intensive wrap-around services. This approach is good for families, for their communities, and is proven to save costs in both the short- and the long-term. Senate Bill 5507 includes a \$400,000 investment to restore funding for the Family Preservation Project (FPP), a program that has served incarcerated mothers and their children in Department of Corrections (DOC) custody since 2003. The FPP addresses the impact of incarceration on mothers and their families, by enabling mothers to maintain a bond with their children and learn parenting skills while incarcerated. The program has a tremendous record of success in keeping families intact and nearly eliminating recidivism among women who participate.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Standing Up for Oregon Women (*continued*)

HB 2015 & HB 3535 Helping Families Stabilize & Return to Work

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) are two programs that help women and families find stability and access to employment and educational opportunities. House Bill 2015 will critically improve eligibility, accessibility, and quality of childcare assistance in Oregon by revising the ERDC program. Expanded eligibility and an investment of nearly \$17 million in the ERDC program under HB 2015 will shrink the current wait list by nearly one third, covering hundreds of additional eligible families. HB 3535 restores some of the cuts made to TANF in 2008, and makes other program changes to maximize success of the TANF program. Specifically, the bill invests \$9 million out of a \$30 million TANF reinvestment to simplify eligibility requirements, reduce the “benefits cliff” to prevent re-entry into TANF programs, and expand partnerships with community-based organizations that provide services to prevent people from entering TANF in the first place.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Consumer Protection

HB 2700 Class Action Fairness

House Bill 2700 implements major class action lawsuit reforms that increase corporate accountability and provide funds for legal services for vulnerable Oregonians. Prior to the bill's passage, a corporation found liable for harming the public was allowed to keep any unclaimed settlement funds. Under HB 2700, excess funds from a settlement will help fund Legal Aid services across Oregon.

SB 411 Personal Injury Protection & Stacking in Car Insurance Policies

Senate Bill 411 will put injured drivers' needs ahead of insurance companies by changing state laws on uninsured motorist coverage and personal injury protection coverage. There are two main provisions in SB 411: the first allows injured motorists to add their uninsured motorist coverage on top of the at-fault driver's liability coverage so injured consumers get the coverage they paid for with their premium. The second provision addresses Personal Injury Protection (PIP) coverage. Currently, a policyholder's PIP coverage is repaid to the insurance company before the injured party is paid total damages. SB 411 allows the injured motorist to recover their total damages first.

SB 574 Oversight and Licensure for Restoration Companies

Senate Bill 574 puts restoration work resulting from disaster, such as clean-up from smoke or water damage, under the licensing authority of the state's Construction Contractors Board (CCB), providing needed oversight of those restoration companies that use predatory tactics on consumers. By requiring CCB licensure, SB 574 will ensure that all restoration companies are bonded and insured, conform to contract language requirements aimed at protecting consumers, and participate in contract dispute resolution.

SB 278 Closing Loopholes Exploited by Unlicensed Payday Lenders

Senate Bill 278 closes a loophole used by out-of-state payday lenders to take advantage of Oregonians facing a short term financial crisis. These unlicensed lenders often charge exorbitant interest rates and fees in violation of Oregon law. SB 278 voids certain loans made by unlicensed payday lenders and protects Oregonians from abusive lending tactics.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Consumer Protection (*continued*)

SB 601 Responding to Data Breaches & Protecting Personal Health Info

The Oregon Consumer Identity Theft Protection Act requires businesses and government agencies to institute safeguards for personal information and give notice to consumers of digital data breaches. Senate Bill 601 updates this law to include more types of personal information (including medical, biometric, and health information), and requires a company to notify the Attorney General when they experience a data breach affecting more than 250 people.

SB 641 Smartphone Data Privacy

Data stored on a smartphone or other portable electronic device can paint a near-complete picture of even the most intimate and personal details of someone's life. To ensure that law enforcement only access this data appropriately, Senate Bill 641 requires a warrant or consent to copy data from a portable electronic device and allows information obtained without a warrant or consent to be excluded from use in court.

HB 2377 Cracking Down on Identity Theft

"Phishing" is an increasingly common method of obtaining someone's personal information by posing as a legitimate company or business and requesting personal information. To help combat phishing, House Bill 2377 makes this fraudulent practice a violation of the Unlawful Trade Practices Act, Oregon's primary consumer protection law, allowing the Attorney General to pursue identity thieves.

HB 2532 Requiring Disclosure of Terms of Complex Mortgages

Reverse mortgages are a relatively rare but complex type of mortgage in which funds are available as a line of credit, cash advance, or periodic payment to be repaid with interest when the borrower dies, moves permanently from the home, or sells the home. Consumer complaints about these complex mortgages are common, so House Bill 2532 requires a clear summary of the terms to be provided to the borrower.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Consumer Protection (*continued*)

HB 2551 Protecting Consumer Health Information

House Bill 2551 requires health insurers and providers to demonstrate, every year to Oregon's Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS), how they are protecting individual protected health information. Data breaches are becoming increasingly common, putting Oregonians' identifiable, sensitive, and private information at risk. This bill is just one step in safeguarding individuals' privacy by holding insurers and providers accountable to their consumers, and making sure that they are complying with existing data security regulations.

HB 2605 Health Insurance Rate Review Fairness

Currently, the process to file and review health insurance rates is overseen by the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS). First, insurers submit a rate filing at least 60 days before the proposed effective date. This request is then posted on the DCBS website, and a 30-day public comment period begins. Within 40 days, the Oregon Insurance Division in DCBS reviews the filing and issues a decision. House Bill 2605 seeks to improve transparency and public involvement in this process by requiring DCBS to issue a preliminary decision instead of a final decision, and allow time for public response. The bill also directs DCBS to convene a work group to consider modifying the standard for rate review filings.

HB 3031 Stopping Robo-Calls

House Bill 3031 requires callers making unsolicited automatically dialed marketing calls to allow, within the first 10 seconds of the call, the person to opt out of future calls. Violations of state laws governing robo-calls can be enforced by the Attorney General.

HB 3318 Oregon Lottery Responsible Gambling Code

House Bill 3318 requires the Oregon State Lottery Commission to adopt a Responsible Gambling Code of Practice to ensure the Lottery is managed to reduce problem gambling. The Lottery has a double mission of raising revenue for public programs and to minimize problem gambling; HB 3318 directs the Commission to develop policies and practices to reduce the public harm caused by problem gambling.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Consumer Protection (*continued*)

HB 3525 Protecting Oregonians Against Immigration Consultant Fraud

In recent years, individuals have offered fraudulent immigration consulting services in Oregon under the title of a “notario publico”—a practice barred in Oregon by law in 2013, on the basis that many of these individuals are not qualified or licensed to practice law. House Bill 3525 continues the state’s work to crack down on those taking advantage of vulnerable Oregonians, establishing a Task Force on Immigration Consultant Fraud. The task force will study violations of the 2013 law, the obstruction of people who have attempted to report violations of immigration consultants, and report back to the Legislature on their findings.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Housing

HB 3082 Nonprofit Low-Income Property Tax Exemption

Currently, when a low-income family in nonprofit affordable housing earns just one dollar over 60 percent of Area Median Income, they no longer qualify for the Nonprofit Low Income Property Tax Exemption and the nonprofit who owns the property receives a property tax bill. The family then faces the dilemma of not qualifying to stay in their home, but also not being able to afford fair market rent. House Bill 3082 creates the option for local jurisdictions to allow families in affordable housing to stay in their homes while working their way out of poverty.

HB 5005 Major Investment in Affordable Housing

This session, the Legislature demonstrated a strong commitment to making sure that all Oregonians have stable, safe, and affordable housing. An investment of \$40 million to develop affordable housing units will shelter and stabilize thousands of Oregonians, especially those living on lower incomes. This investment will drive job creation, strengthen communities, and improve the health, economic stability, and well-being of Oregon's families and children. An additional \$20 million will finance construction of supportive housing for individuals with mental illness and/or addiction disorders.

SB 5513 Housing and Community Services Department Budget

Senate Bill 5513 increases funding for the department's Multifamily Rental Housing Programs, which expand the availability of decent, affordable housing for Oregonians through funding new construction, acquisition, and rehabilitation of existing rental housing units. The budget also includes \$1.4 million to continue Oregon's successful foreclosure avoidance counseling program and related legal aid services.

SB 5543 Rebalance Budget: Foreclosure Avoidance & Fighting Wildfires

The 2013-2015 Rebalance Budget appropriates an additional \$349,000 for successful foreclosure prevention counseling to help more struggling families stay in their homes. The rebalance bill also appropriates an additional \$2.5 million to help cover the costs of the expensive 2014 wildfire season that threatened many Oregon homes.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Housing (*continued*)

SB 444 Housing Stability

Stable housing is connected to every part of a person's life—their school performance; their ability to find and maintain employment; their performance at work; their ability to obtain care for personal health and wellness; and their overall family stability. Senate Bill 444 directs the Housing and Community Services Department to develop a report for the Legislature by 2016 on housing stabilization programs in Oregon, focusing on where these programs operate in Oregon, how they serve Oregonians, and what outcomes are used to evaluate the program's success.

HB 2126 Renewing an Important Tool for Housing Development

House Bill 2126 extends the Vertical Housing Development Zone program, which allows cities to provide a partial property tax exemption to revitalize vacant areas or promote mixed commercial/residential use. Renewing this program will allow cities to continue promoting affordable housing and balanced residential development.

HB 2195 Addressing Homelessness in Multnomah County

Oregon's current laws outline how counties must use any money gained from the sale of foreclosed properties. House Bill 2195 requires Multnomah County to use designated proceeds from foreclosure sales or by exchange for land originally acquired by foreclosure of delinquent tax liens, for housing services. In January 2015, Multnomah County adopted an ambitious community plan to tackle homelessness. HB 2195 will support the goals of the community's plan, committing certain foreclosure sale funds for things like housing supports for youth and families with children, rental assistance, and low income housing development.

HB 3524 Boosting the Supply of Affordable Housing

House Bill 3524 requires the State of Oregon to give nonprofit organizations the first right of refusal to develop affordable housing on property that the State no longer needs. This measure will help address an ongoing shortage of buildable land for affordable housing.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Housing (*continued*)

HB 2547 Housing with Services

Housing with Services is a pilot project that began in 2014, which currently serves 1,400 seniors and people with disabilities living in 11 publicly-subsidized apartment buildings. The population includes seniors, families, and others with special needs who receive on-site wraparound services to improve housing stability and access to health and social services. Since this model has emerged, some concerns have arisen about how to delineate these sites from other care and independent living settings. House Bill 2547 creates a Task Force on Housing with Services to define these sites, and to establish some critical consumer protections for residents.

HB 2629 Giving Tenants Notice of Rent Increases

In Oregon there are around 200 buildings built with financing from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development or Farm Services Agency loans. These 200 buildings provide an estimated 6,300 rental units in rural areas. In exchange for subsidies, these property owners must agree to maintain affordability for tenants, at least until the mortgage is paid off, at which time units can be priced at or near market rates. House Bill 2629 will protect low-income renters by requiring landlords of these qualifying properties to notify tenants and local housing authorities at least one year in advance of loan maturity, which could lead to an increase in rent.

HB 2690 Promoting Affordable Housing Construction

House Bill 2690 fixes a gap in the property tax exemption given to property acquired by charitable organizations like Habitat for Humanity for home construction. With this change, property acquired by a nonprofit for the purpose of home construction will be fully exempt from property tax before its sale to a new homeowner.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Jobs, Economy, & Workforce

HB 5016 & HB 3072 Expanding Career & Technical Education, STEM Education

To get students ready for apprenticeships, community college, and family wage jobs, House Bill 5016 more than doubles the previous investment in Career Technical Education (CTE) and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Education (STEM) to \$35 million. This investment will fund teacher training and mentorships, grants to schools to expand CTE programs, and grants to help ensure school programs connect to industry-recognized credentials.

SB 482 Pacific Northwest Manufacturing Partnership

Senate Bill 482 creates the Pacific Northwest Manufacturing Partnership Advisory Committee (PNMP), a consortium dedicated to accelerating the resurgence of manufacturing in the Northwest. The PNMP will sit within Business Oregon, the state's economic development agency. Staff in the department will focus on facilitating regional collaboration amongst the manufacturing sector by working with relevant education and research institutions.

SB 324 Clean Fuels Program Expansion

A significant economic and environmental victory, Senate Bill 324 removes the sunset on provisions related to Oregon's low carbon fuel standard. Commonly referred to as the Clean Fuels Program, the program requires oil companies to gradually reduce their share of carbon pollution, for a net reduction of 10 percent over ten years. The Clean Fuels program is expected to help drive innovation and business growth across Oregon's clean energy sector.

HB 2007 Equal Pay for Equal Work

House Bill 2007 protects workers by prohibiting retaliation against employees who discuss wages amongst themselves. Prior to passage, workers in Oregon could face consequences for sharing their wage or salary rate with their coworkers, or for voicing their right to a fair wage. Threat of retaliation has been cited as an impediment to progress on equal pay for equal work for Oregon women.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Jobs, Economy, & Workforce (*continued*)

SB 491 Equal Pay Training for State Contractors

Senate Bill 491 requires large state contractors to complete training on equal pay laws and protects contractor employees who discuss their wages from retaliation by their employers. The bill requires vendors bidding on state contracts over \$500,000 and who have 50 or more full time equivalent employees to submit certification of training on pay equity with their project bids.

SB 552 Domestic Worker Protections

Domestic workers provide in-home services such as childcare, cooking, and housekeeping. Senate Bill 552 establishes workplace protections mostly for domestic workers who live in the home they serve, and classifies violations as unlawful employment practices. The protections for domestic workers in SB 552 include overtime pay, periods of rest, paid vacation time, and freedom from harassment.

SB 932 Access to Opportunity Act

Senate Bill 932 will help Oregon students attain higher education by expanding access to the Oregon Opportunity Grant. This Act builds upon work done in 2013 to allow longtime Oregonian students who are undocumented to pay in-state tuition rates, and will permit those students to apply for the Oregon Opportunity Grant, Oregon's only need-based financial aid program. The Legislature also approved a major expansion of the Oregon Opportunity Grant this session, investing an additional 20 percent for a total of nearly \$141 million to support the higher education goals of Oregon students.

HB 2015 Improving Employment Related Day Care

House Bill 2015 will significantly improve eligibility, accessibility, and quality of childcare assistance in Oregon. The bill revises the Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) program, providing one continuous year of eligibility, granting eligibility to working students and the self-employed, and providing reduced copays and incentives for providers who meet certain quality standards. Expanded eligibility and an investment of nearly \$17 million in the ERDC program under HB 2015 will shrink the current wait list by nearly one third, covering hundreds of additional eligible families.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Jobs, Economy, & Workforce (*continued*)

HB 2960 Retirement Security for Oregon Workers

House Bill 2960 creates the Oregon Retirement Savings Board, which will create a program to ensure every Oregonian has access to a portable retirement savings account starting in summer 2017. Crafted in response to the nation's looming retirement crisis, this simple savings tool will help Oregonians save for their future.

HB 3025 Bans Consideration of Criminal History before Job Interview

House Bill 3025, "Ban the Box," will help Oregonians with prior arrests or convictions seek gainful employment. The bill creates an unlawful employment practice that bans employers from excluding consideration of a job applicant from an initial interview solely because of a past criminal conviction. The bill does not prevent an employer from considering an applicant's criminal history in making their hiring decisions.

HB 2734 & HB 5030 Cleaning up Polluted Sites for Business Development

House Bill 2734 gives local governments the ability to create land bank authorities, an innovative tool to clean up brownfields—former industrial or commercial sites where development is hindered by real or perceived environmental contamination. Left untouched, these properties pose threats to human health and the environment while also undermining economic development and failing to contribute to the local and state economies. House Bill 5030 allocates \$7 million for these efforts to help cities and counties make better use of their land.

SB 611 Central Assessment

Because of the Northwest's access to affordable land and electricity, rural Oregon has become an attractive location for data centers in the last decade. However, questions about how data centers should be assessed for property taxes and subsequent court cases have created complications and uncertainty for businesses looking to establish data centers in Oregon. Senate Bill 611 clarifies that companies investing in data centers in Oregon will not be assessed on their total global value. This change will give large businesses, like Amazon and Google, the certainty they need to maintain their investments and start new construction of data centers in Oregon while guaranteeing a steady flow of revenue for local governments.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Jobs, Economy, & Workforce (*continued*)

SB 927 Oregon Convention Center Hotel

National event planners have long cited the lack of a large hotel in proximity to the Oregon Convention Center as a deterrent to choosing Portland for national conventions and events. Senate Bill 927 clarifies the authority of Metro, the Portland area's regional government agency, to construct a hotel connected to the Oregon Convention Center. The Legislature approved partial funding for the project in 2013.

SB 5525 Supporting Oregon Businesses

Senate Bill 5525 invests in programs to support Oregon-grown businesses, including support for successful manufacturing partnerships, small business assistance, innovation and industry competitiveness programs, and promotion of Oregon products in international markets. This budget includes \$1 million for the Oregon Regional Accelerator and Innovation Network (Oregon RAIN), \$750,000 to supplement funding for the Oregon Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and \$200,000 to support the Grow Oregon economic gardening pilot project.

SB 185 Social Media Rules at Work

Senate Bill 185 makes it illegal for an employer to require a person to have a social media account as a condition of their employment, or to require the employer to advertise on the employee's account.

SB 306 Inspecting & Repairing Critical Levees

Many flood control levees in Oregon need inspection and repairs, and must be certified under the National Flood Insurance Program to maintain affordable flood insurance for area property owners. Senate Bill 306 addresses this issue by allowing existing public works funds to be used for levee inspection and repair. The Legislature also dedicated \$5 million for this use.

SB 686 Work Experience for Out of School Youth

Senate Bill 686 helps get kids who have dropped out back into school by allowing alternative high schools to qualify for federal money that provides training and work experience for their students.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Jobs, Economy, & Workforce (*continued*)

SB 320 Supporting Small Home Businesses

Currently, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) requires anyone who would like to sell baked goods made in his or her home kitchen to meet specific requirements, and obtain a domestic kitchen license. Senate Bill 320 allows small-scale operations to prepare and sell baked goods without ODA licensure. These food entrepreneurs throughout Oregon will still be required to label and safely handle their products, but will be able to do so with fewer burdens on their budding businesses.

SB 341 Balanced Liability Protections for Farm and Ranch Events

Farmers and ranchers are increasingly turning to agritourism activities, including farm stays, pumpkin patches, and harvest-your-own activities, to generate extra income and sell their products directly to the public. Senate Bill 341 provides balanced protection from liability for farmers and ranchers so they can continue providing these activities while preserving the public's right to sue for negligence or disregard for safety in a court of law.

HB 3239 Improving Farmers' Access to Capital

Oregon's Beginning and Expanding Farm Loan Program provides a tax incentive for private lenders to provide loans to small farmers. House Bill 3239 bill adds certain farm lenders and finance agreements to the lenders and loans eligible for this program.

SB 468 Recovering Unpaid Wages & Holding Employers Accountable

After a worker makes a complaint that they are not being paid wages they are owed, and the Bureau of Labor and Industries conducts an investigation and orders the employer to pay the wages, some particularly bad employers move assets or change business names to avoid paying wages owed. Senate Bill 468 will help workers by allowing the Bureau to issue a garnishment order to more quickly collect wages owed to an employee after the employer has had a chance to appeal the agency's decision.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Jobs, Economy, & Workforce (*continued*)

SB 469 Updating Oregon's Hospital Nurse Staffing Law

In 2001 the Legislature passed House Bill 2800, establishing a nursing services staffing law for Oregon's hospitals. The law requires hospitals to establish a hospital nurse staffing committee (HNSC) to develop staffing plans based on patient needs and nursing staff qualifications. Senate Bill 469 updates the original law: making some key improvements to better enforce staffing plan requirements; to empower an HNSC in their role; to increase accountability, transparency, and worker protections in the staffing process; and to provide a mechanism for mediating conflicts between an HNSC and a hospital. These changes to Oregon's nurse staffing law promise to improve patient safety, create a better work environment for Oregon's nurses and hospital care teams, and save costs in our health care system.

SB 534 Providing Infrastructure to Airports

Senate Bill 534 allows cities to provide sewer and water services to an airport without annexing the airport through the state's land use system. This change is expected to help aviation-related business locate and expand at a handful of small airports in Oregon.

SB 774 Advancing Oregon's Home Care Workforce

The Home Care Commission (HCC) was established in 2000, and is responsible for ensuring the quality of home care services for seniors and people with disabilities funded by the Department of Human Services. As Oregon's population ages, a shortage of home care workers looms, and there's an increasing need to recruit, retain, and invest in training home care workers across systems. Senate Bill 774 directs the HCC to adopt a statewide plan to address: increasing participation in the home care registry, including encouraging a universal application and registry of workers; increasing the number of home care workers; continuing creation of a career ladder to help home care workers become more skilled and gain certifications; conducting orientation sessions for home care workers; and developing an outreach and marketing strategy. The Legislature has invested \$1 million to carry out this work, and the HCC is required to report regularly on the status of these efforts.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Jobs, Economy, & Workforce (*continued*)

SB 860 College to Career Transition

For students transitioning from college into their careers, advice and assistance—from career advising services, to alumni mentorship—can be an important factor that supports career success. Senate Bill 860 directs the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to select one large and one small public university in Oregon to participate in a funded pilot program to coordinate opportunities for student career advising and mentorship. By January 1, 2016, HECC will begin supporting staff at these two chosen universities, and will give progress reports on these projects by 2017.

***SB 938 Economic Development Tool for Cities and Counties**

Senate Bill 938 provides local governments the option to offer a property tax exemption to newly constructed industrial facilities valued between \$2 million and \$25 million for up to five years. This additional tool for cities and counties to incent new industrial development will especially help drive growth in rural economies.

HB 2280 Supporting Oregon-Grown Businesses

The Oregon Growth Board was established in 2011 to focus on increasing the state's ability to grow companies from early stages to large, locally-headquartered firms. House Bill 2280 makes changes to the composition of the Board to make it easier for the Board to operate efficiently. The Legislature also increased staff capacity for the Oregon Growth Board in the 2015-2017 budget.

HB 2410 Training Certificates Awarded by Community Colleges

House Bill 2410 allows community colleges to award noncredit training certificates to working students—something that four-year universities are currently allowed to do. Employers often turn to community colleges for the training that they require of their employees to have, and the noncredit divisions of community colleges are well-positioned to quickly meet the training needs of industry in their local communities. Noncredit training certificates (vs. "recognition awards" or other credentials community colleges are currently permitted to grant) will give current and future employees the documentation to prove skill attainment, making them more marketable and giving industry the kind of benchmarks they need to determine employee suitability.

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

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Jobs, Economy, & Workforce (*continued*)

HB 2643 Simplifying Economic Development through Enterprise Zones

Enterprise zones are an economic development tool used by local governments to exempt qualifying businesses from local property taxes on new investments. House Bill 2643 streamlines the process for establishing an enterprise zone, and removes the limit on how many may be set up in Oregon at once. This allows cities and counties greater flexibility and less paperwork to use this proven economic development tool. The Oregon Business Development Department still must approve creation of new enterprise zones.

HB 2728 Connecting Skilled Workers with Business Needs

House Bill 2728 creates the Oregon Talent Council to gather data about skill and occupation needs across Oregon businesses; make recommendations to guide workforce investments; and invest in strategies to close key gaps in Oregon's workforce. Highly skilled workers are needed across every industry sector, and in every part of the state.

HB 2764 Helping Injured Workers

In many parts of Oregon's complex workers' compensation process, an injured worker may not be allowed to hire a lawyer or pay the lawyer for their service. This has led to workers not having the help they need to navigate the system, and a shortage of attorneys with the expertise to work in this area. House Bill 2764 expands the services for which an injured worker can hire an attorney and increases caps on fees that these attorneys can charge for some services.

HB 3391 DHS Worker Safety

Front-line employees of the Department of Human Services (DHS) are often tasked with navigating tense interactions and confrontations. Child welfare workers are often at particular risk, given that their position requires them to make decisions about child safety and placement, often working long-term with families through difficult challenges. When a worker's safety is at risk, there are ways that DHS can aid threatened employees, but there are some situations that call for further legal action that a worker must pay for. House Bill 3391 allows the Attorney General to bring action in a circuit court for a citation or a stalking protective order on behalf of a DHS worker when their personal safety is threatened as a result of their work.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

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Education & Kids

HB 5017 Full Day Kindergarten Funding & Stability for Oregon Classrooms

The Legislature approved the budget for Kindergarten through 12th grade education in the first week of April. This early approval set the baseline for school funding and included a \$600 million increase over the last budget cycle, which provided stability for most school districts while also funding full-day kindergarten for children throughout Oregon for the first time in state history. Following an increase in revenues in the May economic forecast, lawmakers added \$117 million to the state school budget, further bolstering our schools.

SB 215 Reorganizing the Oregon Education Investment Board

Senate Bill 215 is a major overhaul of the Oregon Education Investment Board and its duties. The bill dissolves the appointed OEIB Board, transfers many of the Board's duties to the Chief Education Officer, and creates the Chief Education Office to execute these duties. This consensus legislation will allow Oregon to make progress toward improving education outcomes for students.

SB 321 Raising Compulsory School Age

Senate Bill 321 decreases Oregon's compulsory school age from seven to six years of age, helping to combat Oregon's notoriously high rate of absenteeism. Studies have demonstrated that delayed entry into the classroom can have a negative impact on students' success, and that these early setbacks can be hard to overcome.

HB 5016 & HB 3072 Expanding Career & Technical Education, STEM Education

To get students ready for apprenticeships, community college, and family wage jobs, House Bill 5016 more than doubles the previous investment in Career Technical Education (CTE) and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Education (STEM) to \$35 million. This investment will fund teacher training and mentorships, grants to schools to expand CTE programs, and grants to help ensure school programs connect to industry-recognized credentials.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Education & Kids (*continued*)

SB 478 Toxic-Free Kids Act

The Oregon Toxic-Free Kids Act requires the Oregon Health Authority to establish a list of chemicals especially hazardous to children's health and requires some manufacturers to incrementally phase out the use of these chemicals in kids' products. The bill addresses increasing concerns about exposure to toxic chemicals that are known to cause developmental disorders and other damaging health effects in children.

SB 553 & SB 556 Responsible School Discipline

"Zero tolerance" school discipline—applying suspension and expulsion even to non-violent, disruptive offenses—has been shown to cause more harm than good, especially for students of color, students with disabilities, and economically disadvantaged students, who are disproportionately impacted by exclusionary discipline. Senate Bills 553 and 556 help make sure school discipline is applied appropriately and effectively, especially for young students. SB 553 prohibits school districts from imposing out-of-school suspensions on elementary school students for minor infractions. SB 556 will prohibit Oregon schools from using expulsion as a disciplinary measure to address truancy. Both bills were part of a package introduced to improve graduation rates and close the school-to-prison pipeline.

SB 777 ABLE Act for Oregonians Living with Disabilities

The Achieving a Better Life Experience Act (ABLE) program creates a savings program for children with disabilities, or adults with disabilities whose disability manifested before 26 years of age, allowing those eligible to set and reach financial goals and become more self-sufficient. Prior to passage, individuals with disabilities could not build assets because if they save more than \$2,000 at any one time, they risked losing access to Medicaid, Social Security, and other benefits. This made it nearly impossible for people with disabilities to save money for a house, a car, education services, or even medical necessities. Senate Bill 777 aligns state law with federal law, creating a path to financial security and independence for Oregonians living with disability.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Education & Kids (*continued*)

HB 2655 Student Testing Bill of Rights

House Bill 2655 establishes a 'Student Assessment Bill of Rights', in response to growing concerns from educators, parents, and students about testing in schools. The bill standardizes the process to excuse a student from participating in statewide standardized tests, such as the Smarter Balanced Assessment, improves notice and information provided to parents and students, and strengthens student data privacy protections.

HB 2680, HB 2713, & HB 2715 Standardized Testing in Schools

In 2014, Oregon began implementing new Smarter Balanced Assessments, tests aligned with Common Core teaching and content standards. These standards—for teaching, and for testing—are relatively new, and concerns have arisen about how the results may be used, what the costs and benefits of new testing methods are, and whether or not student privacy is adequately protected, especially in the early years of implementation.

House Bill 2680 prohibits using the results of these tests to determine school ratings, or to evaluate teachers or administrators—because these tests are still so new, they may not be an accurate indicator of teacher or school effectiveness. This reprieve applies to tests administered in the 2014-15 school year. The bill also directs Oregon's Superintendent of Public Instruction to pull together a workgroup to consider designing a new system of school testing.

House Bill 2713 directs Oregon's Secretary of State to conduct an audit on the fiscal, administrative, and educational impacts of Smarter Balanced statewide standardized tests in public schools.

House Bill 2715 prohibits school employees and volunteers from posting, publishing, or making public any personally identifiable information in relation to testing results. This bill will ensure that test scores cannot be used punitively, or to shame students.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Education & Kids (*continued*)

HB 2015 Improving Employment Related Day Care

House Bill 2015 will significantly improve eligibility, accessibility, and quality of childcare assistance in Oregon. The bill revises the Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) program, providing one continuous year of eligibility, granting eligibility to working students and the self-employed, and providing reduced copays and incentives for providers who meet certain quality standards. Expanded eligibility and an investment of nearly \$17 million in the ERDC program under HB 2015 will shrink the current wait list by nearly one third, covering hundreds of additional eligible families.

HB 2546 E-Cigarettes Regulation

House Bill 2546 addresses the growing popularity of electronic cigarettes, especially among youth, and sets state standards for a highly unregulated product. The bill bans the sales of e-cigarettes to minors and extends the requirements of Oregon's Indoor Clean Air Act to e-cigarette use. Prior to passage, there were no statewide restrictions on e-cigarette sales or use.

HB 5016 Department of Education Budget

House Bill 5016 authorized major increases in funding for early learning, bringing the total to over \$75 million for all early learning programs, which includes early learning hubs, kindergarten readiness, and preschool programs. Career and Technical Education and STEM programs share a total investment of almost \$35 million—of which \$26 million is new funding this biennium. The budget includes a \$7 million special purpose appropriation for accelerated learning programs to help high school students earn college credits with advanced coursework.

HB 3499 English Language Learner Programs

House Bill 3499 directs the Department of Education to convene an advisory group to address budgets and spending for English language learner (ELL) programs. The ELL student population in Oregon has increased by 120 percent over the last decade and HB 3499 will reform and improve programs for ELL students in Oregon.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Education & Kids (*continued*)

HB 2545 Eliminating the School Lunch Co-pay

The Oregon Department of Education offers free and reduced meal programs in schools for eligible students. Depending on family income, students may receive meals or milk without charge, or with a “co-pay” up to 40 cents. For Oregon families struggling with essentials—housing, food, doctor’s visits—even a modest co-pay for school meals adds up, and can be a barrier to keeping kids fed. House Bill 2545 invests nearly \$2.4 million to cover this co-pay for families, so that an estimated 30,000 Oregon K-12 students can get nutritious meals free-of-charge at school.

HB 2846 Breakfast After the Bell

In schools, making sure kids can have an adequate breakfast on campus is associated with better test scores, better attendance, increased attentiveness, and better health and nutrition. House Bill 2846 allows for up to 15 minutes of morning classroom time spent eating breakfast to also be considered instructional time. Allowing teachers to teach kids while they get a nutritious meal will increase the number of kids taking advantage of a school nutrition program, and provide an opportunity to maximize limited teaching time by joining the two together.

SB 79 CPR Training in Schools

Schools in Oregon are currently required to have an automated external defibrillator (AED) on campus, and many schools provide elective cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Senate Bill 79 requires that school districts provide instruction in CPR and the use of AEDs to 7th through 12th graders, beginning in the 2015-2016 school year. The bill only requires the instruction to include hands-on CPR, and can be provided by community partners. This bill will better equip school community members to help save a life and prevent disability in an emergency, before First Responders are able to arrive.

SB 240 Job Training for Youth Offenders

Senate Bill 240 provides flexibility needed to allow youth offenders under the supervision of the Oregon Youth Authority to participate in apprenticeship programs through the Oregon State Apprenticeship and Training Council. Participating in and getting credit for apprenticeship helps youth offenders build skills and credibility needed to find a job upon their release.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Education & Kids (*continued*)

SB 187 The Oregon Student Information Protection Act

Schools are increasingly using online and mobile applications to enhance learning and provide feedback on student performance. As applications and software for testing, tracking grades, pairing classroom learning with online modules, and other uses for this technology become more common, concerns about student data privacy have emerged. Developed by Oregon's Attorney General, Senate Bill 187 establishes the Oregon Student Information Protection Act, which requires providers of these educational applications or websites to provide security for student information, and prohibits companies from selling student information, amassing student profiles, and targeting advertisements to students through sites or applications.

SB 686 Work Experience for Out of School Youth

Senate Bill 686 helps get kids who have dropped out back into school by allowing alternative high schools to qualify for federal money that provides training and work experience for their students.

HB 2601 Reporting Kidnapped Children

House Bill 2601 requires a police officer with probable cause to believe a child has been kidnapped or taken by a non-custodial parent to notify the Oregon State Police within 24 hours. This change will keep the State Police database as up to date as possible, making it more likely that taken children will be found safely and quickly.

HB 3014 Recognizing Grandparents' Role for Kids

House Bill 3014 ensures that both sets of grandparents can have a right to notice of a court proceeding and a right to request visitation of their grandchild in foster care, regardless of whether their child (the parent) has had their parental rights terminated by the court.

HB 3035 School Zone Road Safety

If a school has a parking lot across the street from a school and the street has a speed limit under 45 miles per hour, House Bill 3035 allows the school to use a flashing light to caution the traffic of the school zone between 7:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Education & Kids (*continued*)

SB 213 Early Learning Hubs

In 2013, the Legislature authorized the creation of sixteen regional, community-based Early Learning Hubs to establish an aligned, coordinated, and family-centered early childhood system. Hubs have organized across the state, working together to create community-based plans that meet the needs of children and families in their areas. Senate Bill 213 makes these Hubs permanent, and requires Oregon's Early Learning Council to develop shared metrics to evaluate short- and long-term success of the Hubs. This bill supports the commitment that diverse local partners—public health departments, school districts, community colleges, coordinated care organizations, nonprofits, and others—have made to improve early learning and close the achievement gap.

SB 439 Outdoor School Program Account

Outdoor school programs are associated with increased graduation rates and renewed student interest in their education. Senate Bill 439 directs the Oregon State University Extension Service to assist school districts in providing outdoor school programs through the creation of an Outdoor Education Account. This bill will expand access to Outdoor School Education for many districts that were previously unable to offer the program individually. The bill does not provide any direct funding.

SB 447 Facility Upgrade Grants for School Districts

Senate Bill 447 establishes a grant program to provide matching grant fund grants to school districts for their capitol construction costs. Through the creation of the Office of School Facilities, matching fund grants will be administered to school districts for improvements on hazardous, dilapidated facilities.

SB 520 Improving Oregonians' Access to Vaccines

Currently, qualified pharmacists in Oregon can administer certain vaccines to children 11 and older. To improve accessibility and convenience of child immunizations, Senate Bill 520 lowers this allowable age, permitting pharmacists to administer vaccines to children age 7 and older. Vaccines will still be stored and provided in keeping with existing regulations and recommended schedules, this will simply allow for another venue for parents to access necessary immunizations for their kids.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Education & Kids (*continued*)

SB 5507 Improving Foster Care in Oregon

To improve the quality and effectiveness of foster care in Oregon, the Legislature has invested nearly \$1 million in the Department of Human Services to work with community-based organizations to develop and implement two pilot programs, one serving a rural part of the state and the other one serving an urban area. The programs are intended to target youth who have been through multiple foster care placements, and who are at risk due to unsuccessful placements in the foster care system. The programs will include supports for foster parents, such as care training, behavioral supports, respite care, and assistance connecting with a child's biological family members.

SB 5507 Restoring Funding for the Family Preservation Project

The Family Preservation Project (FPP) grew out of an educational program started at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in 2003, which was taken over and funded by the Department of Corrections (DOC) in 2010. The FPP addresses the impact of incarceration on mothers and their families by enabling mothers to maintain a bond with their children and learn parenting skills while incarcerated. However funding in the DOC budget was not projected to be renewed in 2015. Senate Bill 5507 includes a one-time investment of \$400,000 over the 2015-17 biennium to for a community-based organization—the YWCA of Greater Portland—to continue running the FPP. The YWCA will implement the FPP, and the DOC will continue to play a significant cooperative role in partnership with the YWCA.

SB 561 Crisis Response Following Youth Suicide

In the aftermath of a youth or teen suicide, supports at the local level are often critical in helping peers, students, and a community through crisis, and preventing other suicides. Senate Bill 561 directs the Oregon Health Authority to develop a plan for communication among local mental health authorities and other local systems to improve notification and information sharing when a suicide of someone under 24 occurs.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Education & Kids (*continued*)

SB 612 Identifying Dyslexia Early

This bill requires that school districts screen students for specified risk factors for dyslexia and ensure staff members receive annual training on dyslexia. Definitions for dyslexia vary, making determining prevalence difficult, though it is widely accepted to be one of the most common learning disabilities. Senate Bill 612 is one more way that we can help make sure students with dyslexia are identified early so that they can receive proper assistance.

SB 660 Oral Health Promotion

Senate Bill 660 directs the Oregon Health Authority to promote oral health throughout the state by ensuring availability of dental sealant programs to students attending school in Oregon. The bill will ensure increased education about the availability of dental sealants in schools, promoting access to oral health in Oregon.

SB 667 Supporting Oregon's Small Schools

In the face of declining enrollment and other factors, Oregon's small and rural schools often face challenges in maintaining important classes and programs for their students. Senate Bill 667 will continue an annual investment in the Small School District Supplement Fund through 2020, helping to ensure that children at small schools to have the same opportunities as students in other parts of Oregon.

SB 698 State School Nursing Consultant

In 2009 the Legislature recommended that Oregon achieve a ratio of one school nurse for every 750 students by 2020. Currently, Oregon is far from this target with only one school nurse for every 4,054 students. Senate Bill 698 provides the state with the tools necessary to meet this goal by 2020. The bill creates a School Nursing Consultant in the Oregon Health Authority, to work in partnership with the Oregon Department of Education, and establishes a Task Force on School Nursing to recommend sustainable funding sources for school-based health and nursing services.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Education & Kids (*continued*)

SB 741 Considering Foster Parents in Adoption Process

In a proceeding to adopt a minor child from Department of Human Services (DHS) custody, current DHS administrative rules do not require DHS to equally consider any relatives and any long-term foster parents who are interested in adopting a child. Senate Bill 741 is intended to support the best interests of a foster child when decisions are being made about his or her long term placement. The bill requires DHS to give relatives and current caretakers equal status when considering them as prospective adoptive parents, and to give these parties greater weight as compared to other potential adoptive parents falling outside of those categories.

SB 790 Domestic Violence Education in Schools

Oregon law currently requires school districts to have a policy in place that defines and prohibits teen dating violence and incorporates teen dating violence education into new or existing programs for students in grades 7 through 12. Senate Bill 790 expands on existing law, requiring such educational programs to also include education about domestic violence.

SB 820 Charter School Admissions Equity

Currently, when charter schools receive more applications than they have available slots for, Oregon law requires them to select students through a lottery. However, current law limits their ability to prioritize historically underserved groups in this lottery or selection process. Senate Bill 820 changes this, and allows public charter schools to use a "weighted" lottery for historically underserved students, including students at risk because of any combination of race, ethnicity, English language proficiency, socioeconomic status, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and geographic location.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Education & Kids (*continued*)

SB 856 “Erin’s Law” in Oregon—Preventing Child Sexual Abuse

“Erin’s Law”, named for child sex abuse survivor Erin Merryn, has been passed in more than 20 states nationwide. It requires public schools to implement a prevention-oriented child sexual abuse program to teach students, administrators, teachers, and parents how to recognize and report sexual abuse. Senate Bill 856 establishes an “Erin’s Law” in Oregon, requiring school district boards to adopt a child sexual abuse prevention instructional program for K-12 students, as well as administrator/teacher training and parental involvement components.

SB 895 School Immunization Rate Transparency

Oregon currently has one of the highest immunization exemption rates in the country. During the 2013-2014 school year the rate of non-medical exemptions was 7 percent statewide, with some counties reporting non-medical exemption rates from 14-16 percent. Certain children and other medically vulnerable people can’t receive immunizations, and may be at higher risk for health issues if they contract a vaccine-preventable illness or disease from someone at school. Senate Bill 895 will help parents make informed decisions for their children by requiring schools and children’s facilities to make immunization and exemption rate data available in an easy-to-read format, for example on their website or in a newsletter. This is a simple step—using existing data reporting, and the expertise of local health departments and the Oregon Health Authority—to protect children and medically vulnerable Oregonians.

HB 2186 Standardizing Teacher Performance Evaluations

In 2011 the Legislature passed Senate Bill 290, which established statewide performance standards for teachers and administrators with the Oregon Framework for Teacher and Administrator Evaluation and Support Systems. This effort was built on the belief that providing educators with clear goals and meaningful feedback helps make Oregon’s schools more effective and Oregon’s learners more successful. House Bill 2186 makes it clear that existing statewide performance standards apply to public charter schools, ensuring that all public school teachers—whether traditional or charter—are evaluated by the same core teaching standards.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Education & Kids (*continued*)

HB 2016 Supporting Black Youth in Oregon Schools

From early learning through higher education, Oregon's African American children experience disparities in our state's education system such as disproportionate rate of disciplinary incidents and lower levels of graduation and postsecondary success. House Bill 2016 is an important step in responding to the need to support culturally-specific strategies to improve outcomes for African American students. The bill directs the Oregon Department of Education to address racial inequities through the development of a statewide education plan for African American and black students, to be crafted by a broad stakeholder advisory group. Among other elements, the plan must include strategies to address historical practices that lead to disproportionate outcomes, and to provide culturally responsive curricula and services. The Legislature dedicated \$2.8 million to invest in the work and research supported by this bill, which will provide information to the community, teachers, districts, the state, and future legislatures on the best strategies and investments to improve outcomes for Oregon's African American students.

HB 2205 Fighting Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

In the past few years, Oregon has built better public awareness of commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC), given prosecutors better tools to hold offenders accountable, and invested in services and resources to support those who have been victimized. House Bill 2205 establishes a Fund to End Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and creates a related advisory committee in the Oregon Department of Justice's Crime Victims Services Division, creating a means to receive and distribute funding to support and coordinate the many multidisciplinary efforts in Oregon to end CSEC.

HB 2232 Supporting Oregon's Runaway and Homeless Youth

Oregon is home to nearly 19,000 homeless youth, with more than 3,000 of these kids designated as unaccompanied. Oregon's unaccompanied homeless and runaway children are especially vulnerable to abuse, trauma, and other significant risks. In 2011, Oregon's Department of Human Services was tasked with the responsibility of coordinating and planning statewide services for these children. House Bill 2232 ensures that this responsibility is fulfilled by requiring DHS to appoint an advisory committee made up of experts in housing, mental health, addiction, sex trafficking, child welfare, and law enforcement to direct the work of DHS in supporting Oregon's runaway and homeless youth.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Education & Kids (*continued*)

HB 2233 Residential Care for Children and Youth Offenders

House Bill 2233 convenes an advisory committee within the Department of Human Service's Office of Adult Abuse Prevention and Investigation. The bill creates accountability and oversight for residential youth programs and works to ensure that children are not further maltreated or traumatized in their programs.

HB 2404 Aligning with the Federal "Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act"

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has established stricter nutrition standards for foods or beverages served or sold in schools during the school day through implementation of the "Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act" (2010). House Bill 2404 brings Oregon up to speed by adjusting our school food and beverage nutritional standards to line up with federal standards for keeping students healthy, fed, and ready to learn.

HB 2407 Oregon Opportunity Grant Eligibility

Oregon's only need-based financial aid program, the Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG), currently awards grants to students on a first-come, first-served basis, and the number of applicants greatly outpaces the number of available grants. House Bill 2407 will ensure that students with the greatest financial need are prioritized in the OOG program, and that students can count on stable financial support into their second year as long as they keep succeeding in school.

HB 2661 School Safety in Emergencies

In 2013, the Legislature passed a bill requiring all schools to instruct and drill students on emergency procedures, listing the various types of emergency scenario responses that schools are required to prepare for. House Bill 2661 updates the 2013 law, adding lockdown drills and tsunami response for coastal zone schools to the list of safety threats schools must prepare students and staff for.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Education & Kids (*continued*)

HB 2870 Student Complaint Processes

House Bill 2870 requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to implement a process to resolve student complaints against schools operating in the state. The bill will streamline federal, state and institutional requirements on complaint process procedure.

HB 2889 Savings Accounts for Foster Youth

House Bill 2889 stems from the work of the Oregon Foster Youth Connection (OFYC), a statewide, youth-led, advocacy group of current and former foster youth. The bill allows foster youth 12 and older to establish a savings account of their own. This bill will help foster youth develop critical money management skills, financial literacy, and independence—all important skills for any youth, but especially important for youth in foster care who are often transitioning frequently, and can be financially vulnerable.

HB 2890 Making Sure Foster Kids can Participate in Extracurricular Activities

House Bill 2890 stems from the work of the Oregon Foster Youth Connection, a statewide, youth-led, advocacy group of current and former foster youth. More than 8,000 children are currently in the foster care system in Oregon. This bill directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to accommodate participation in extracurricular activities for children in foster care, in coordination with agencies and foster families. Extracurricular experiences—like playing sports, hiking and camping, learning an instrument, learning an art or new skill, or participating in with peers—are critical and formative for growth. House Bill 2890 will help ensure that children and youth in foster care have access to the same kinds of experiences and opportunities as other kids across Oregon.

HB 2931 Testing for Radon in Schools

House Bill 2931 directs school districts to develop a plan for testing schools for elevated levels of radon, a harmful gas found in certain parts of the state. The Oregon Health Authority will provide guidance for this program by developing a model plan for school districts to follow as well as disseminating information about elevated levels of radon. School districts will have until 2021 to conduct initial testing of school buildings.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Education & Kids (*continued*)

HB 2968 State Funding and Student Achievement Report

House Bill 2968 directs the chief education officer to produce a report on the relationship between state school fund expenditures and achievements by students from families living in poverty. The bill will assist the State in identifying what kinds of successful efforts are already underway, and what areas need improvement to improve student achievement and the education system in Oregon.

HB 2972 Children's Dental Health

Tooth decay is Oregon's most common chronic childhood disease. We know that school-based prevention programs are effective—Oregon schools already mandate screenings for vision and hearing. House Bill 2972 requires students starting elementary school to have had a dental screening within the last year. This bill will help ensure that our state's education and health leaders have good information about how Oregon's kids are accessing dental care, and will encourage schools to provide resources and referrals to dental care for students.

HB 3041 Sun Protection for Students

Child sunburns elevate risk for skin cancer in later years. In Oregon, policies on sunscreen use and wearing sun-protective clothing vary among schools and districts—some schools require a prescription for using a 'medication' like sunscreen, while some schools don't allow hats for sun protection. House Bill 3041 is a simple fix—it directs schools to allow students to wear sun-protective clothes and use sunscreen, which will help eliminate barriers for students to protect themselves from sun exposure during school-time.

HB 3058 Removing Teacher Barriers in Career Technical Education

House Bill 3058 allows a retiree to work as a career and technical education (CTE) teacher without a negative impact on their public employee retirement benefits. This change will make it easier for many retired professionals with experience in public employment to teach CTE courses, which makes more CTE programs available to Oregon students.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Education & Kids (*continued*)

HB 3319 Student Drop-Out Prevention

Oregon is struggling with high absenteeism and low graduation rates among our students. House Bill 3319 directs the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to produce a report that describes best practices used by school districts to reduce dropout rates. This bill will require ODE to report back to the Legislature on what methods of student drop-out prevention are working best and to facilitate information sharing between school districts.

HB 3379 Educators Equity Act

The Minority Teacher Act was enacted in 1991 and updated in 2013 with the goal of having the diversity of educators and administrators working in Oregon's schools more proportionately reflect Oregon's student population. House Bill 3375 updates this law, renaming it the Educators Equity Act. This Act refocuses a number of the original goals related to educator and student diversity, and reflects the state's commitment to equity in opportunity and cultural competence in Oregon's schools.

HB 3380 Mixed Delivery Preschool Program

House Bill 3380 directs the Early Learning Division of the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to expand preschool options across the state, especially those that serve low-income children. This "mixed delivery" preschool program will be coordinated by early learning hubs in a region, and can include programs from Head Start, Oregon Pre-K, child care providers, relief nurseries, private preschools, public charter schools, school districts, Education Service Districts, or community-based organizations. The Legislature invested nearly \$24 million in the ODE budget: one third of this available in the 2015-16 school year for Oregon Pre-K, and the remaining \$17.5 million additional funds to support the mixed delivery model after the upcoming school year.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Higher Education

SB 81 “Oregon Promise” Free Community College

The Oregon Promise tuition waiver program is the result of years of research to design a way for the state to provide tuition-free community college to qualified Oregon students. The program will provide grants to waive tuition for eligible students attending community college in Oregon. With the passage of Senate Bill 81, Oregon becomes the second state in the country with a free community college program.

SB 932 Access to Opportunity Act

Senate Bill 932 will help Oregon students attain higher education by expanding access to the Oregon Opportunity Grant. This Act builds upon work done in 2013 to allow longtime Oregonian students who are undocumented to pay in-state tuition rates, and will permit those students to apply for the Oregon Opportunity Grant, Oregon’s only need-based financial aid program. The Legislature also approved a major expansion of the Oregon Opportunity Grant this session, investing an additional 20 percent for a total of nearly \$141 million to support the higher education goals of Oregon students.

SB 860 College to Career Transition

For students transitioning from college into their careers, advice and assistance—from career advising services, to alumni mentorship—can be an important factor that supports career success. Senate Bill 860 directs the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to select one large and one small public university in Oregon to participate in a funded pilot program to coordinate opportunities for student career advising and mentorship. By January 1, 2016, HECC will begin supporting staff at these two chosen universities, and will give progress reports on these projects by 2017.

HB 2832 Protecting Students from Exorbitant Financial Aid Fees

Some Oregon universities contract with private financial aid management firms that charge high fees when students access their financial aid funding. This includes transaction fees, inactivity fees, initial payment fees, and revenue sharing with the university. House Bill 2832 prohibits universities from agreeing to contracts that include these fees, so students can get access financial aid funds without wasting money on exorbitant fees.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Higher Education (*continued*)

HB 5024 Higher Education Coordinating Commission Budget

This budget increases funding for community colleges by nearly 21 percent, and for public universities by almost 30 percent. The budget also adds \$23.6 million to the Oregon Opportunity Grant program, a 20 percent expansion of the program to serve many more eligible students. Additionally, the budget includes a \$14 million increase to support the Oregon State University Experiment Stations, Statewide Extension Centers, and Forest Research Lab, and continues funding for the Margaret Carter Skill Center at Portland Community College, and the Sabin Schellenberg Professional Technical Center in Clackamas County.

SB 418 Accelerated Learning & Higher Ed Workgroups

“Accelerated credit” or “dual enrollment” programs offer college-level courses to high school students so they can satisfy high school graduation requirements while earning college credit. These programs can improve student outcomes in a number of areas. Senate Bill 418 establishes two workgroups in the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC): one to examine the success rates and outcomes of Senate Bill 81, the Oregon Promise tuition waiver program; and a second to develop recommendations on college preparation in high schools and improving transitions to post-secondary education. Both workgroups will report to the Legislature in February 2016.

SB 473 Inclusive Data Collection at Oregon Colleges and Universities

Though many campuses across Oregon have worked to create safe, inclusive environments for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) students, barriers still remain for many. One critical challenge for schools is a lack of comprehensive, standardized data to help campuses assess and address the needs of LGBTQ students, staff, and faculty. Senate Bill 473 requires public universities to allow students, faculty, and staff to identify their sexual orientation on demographic forms, to allow students to use their preferred name on campus records, and to make this data available to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). The bill also directs HECC to work with community colleges to implement similar practices.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Higher Education (*continued*)

HB 2847 Helping Students Understand their Financial Aid Options

In 1998 Oregon created Access to Student assistance Programs In Reach of Everyone (ASPIRE), with the goal of helping middle and high school students access education and training beyond high school. ASPIRE provides students with information about college and career options, admission, and financial aid from mentors who work one-on-one with students in 145 sites across the state. House Bill 2847 expands on the important work ASPIRE already does, by requiring existing programs to provide financial aid instruction to students and their families, including information on different types of loans, potential use of individual development accounts, and economic impacts of each type of loan.

HB 2871 Open Education Resources Grant Program

In response to 2012 legislation, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) convened a workgroup to discuss textbook affordability and submit a legislative report on the findings. House Bill 2871 is the result of one of the workgroup's recommendations. The bill establishes the Open Educational Resources Grant Program within HECC to address rising textbook costs for students.

HB 2973 The Affordable Baccalaureate Degree Act

In the last decade, tuition prices have increased 72 percent at public four-year institutions, and college is moving further and further out of financial reach for many students. House Bill 2973 establishes the Affordable Baccalaureate Degree Act, an effort to provide increased access to affordable college through means such as low or fixed-cost degree programs. The bill directs public universities and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to work on developing options for affordable degree programs.

HB 3516 Protecting Students' Investment in Education

If a for-profit college goes out of business or faces financial woes, a student's pre-paid tuition may get them nothing. House Bill 3516 protects students by allowing the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to require these colleges to post a bond or line of credit to be used to give students their money back should the college stop operating.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Higher Education (*continued*)

HB 3063 Increasing Higher Education Access

Portland Community College's (PCC) Future Connect program is an initiative that eliminates many barriers for first generation and low-income students, by providing students with scholarships, a college success coach, career guidance, and job and internship resources. The average retention rate for Future Connect students is three times what it is for similar students at PCC who do not receive program supports and the program produces a number of positive benefits for participants. House Bill 3063 increases funding for programs like this one across the state, investing \$3 million in a grant program to community colleges to increase the number of underserved, low-income, and first-generation college-bound students who enroll in community college and make progress toward a degree or a certificate.

HB 3308 Addressing Disparities in Higher Education

In Oregon, disparities exist in higher education for a number of groups, including: people of color; people with disabilities; LGBTQ individuals; nontraditional students; students who formerly served in the Armed Forces; first-generation students; and students whose first language is not English. House Bill 3308 directs the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to convene work group to examine and develop recommendations on how to address inequities in higher education among these many traditionally marginalized, underserved, and underrepresented communities.

HB 3335 Credit Options at Four-Year Universities

Currently, students who complete two years of community college credits are generally eligible for an associate's degree. However, students attending a four-year institution who only attend for two years are generally left with no formal recognition of these academic accomplishments. House Bill 3335 seeks to address this issue. The bill directs the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to work with public universities to fix this problem for students who successfully complete two or more years of coursework and leave without graduating, and without any official recognition of their work.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Quality Health Care & Human Services

SB 1 Fixing Oregon's Health Exchange

Senate Bill 1 improves accountability and oversight for Oregon's health insurance exchange, known previously as Cover Oregon. The bill dissolves Cover Oregon and transfers the functions of Oregon's exchange to the Department of Consumer and Business Services, a move that tightens contracting, personnel, and financial management requirements for the exchange. This important step will help ensure that individuals and families can get the coverage they need, and that Oregon businesses can offer quality, affordable health care plans.

SB 454 Paid Sick Time

With passage of Senate Bill 454, Oregon joins a growing number of states requiring a statewide paid sick time policy for workers. SB 454 requires most employers having ten or more employees to implement a sick time policy allowing an employee to earn, accrue, donate or use at least 40 hours of paid sick time per year. Additionally, the bill requires most employers who employ fewer than ten employees to implement an unpaid sick time policy. This legislative victory will ensure that Oregon workers don't have to choose between their health—or the health of their children—and their livelihood.

SB 777 ABLE Act for Oregonians Living with Disabilities

The Achieving a Better Life Experience Act (ABLE) program creates a savings program for children with disabilities, or adults with disabilities whose disability manifested before 26 years of age, allowing those eligible to set and reach financial goals and become more self-sufficient. Prior to passage, individuals with disabilities could not build assets because if they save more than \$2,000 at any one time, they risked losing access to Medicaid, Social Security, and other benefits. This made it nearly impossible for people with disabilities to save money for a house, a car, education services, or even medical necessities. Senate Bill 777 aligns state law with federal law, creating a path to financial security and independence for Oregonians living with disability.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Quality Health Care & Human Services (*continued*)

SB 839 Good Samaritan Immunity Law for Drug Overdoses

Senate Bill 839 allows individuals to seek medical attention without fear of arrest when a person experiences a drug overdose. SB 839 will provide narrow legal immunity for possession charges against a person when they call for help with a drug overdose. The bill increases the likelihood that a person overdosing on drugs, or someone in their company, will call for medical assistance in time to make a critical difference.

HB 2307 Ban on Conversion Therapy

The Youth Mental Health Protection Act prohibits licensed mental health care providers from practicing “conversion therapy” on youth under the age of 18. Widely discredited by medical professionals, “conversion therapies” are practiced with the goal of changing a person’s sexual orientation or suppressing a person’s gender identity or expression.

HB 2395 Hospital Assessment for Oregon Health Plan Funding

House Bill 2395 is a key measure which will provide more than \$7 billion in health care funding over the next two state budget cycles. In 2015-17, HB 2395 will raise \$880 million in state funds from a self-assessment on Oregon hospitals and draw \$2.4 billion in federal matching funds. The resulting \$3.3 billion will primarily be used to fund the Oregon Health Plan and will be paid out to hospitals and other health care professionals who provide care to Medicaid patients. The provider assessment sustains tens of thousands of Oregon jobs and helps fund innovative new approaches to providing health care.

HB 2546 E-Cigarettes Regulation

House Bill 2546 addresses the growing popularity of electronic cigarettes, especially among youth, and sets state standards for a highly unregulated product. The bill bans the sales of e-cigarettes to minors and extends the requirements of Oregon’s Indoor Clean Air Act to e-cigarette use. Prior to passage, there were no statewide restrictions on e-cigarette sales or use.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Quality Health Care & Human Services (*continued*)

HB 2758 Patient Privacy

House Bill 2758 allows consumers to request to redirect their “Explanation of Benefits” and other health care communications from their insurance company to a different address than the policy holder’s. The bill will ensure that Oregonians who are covered by another person’s insurance policy have the option to request that private health care communications be sent to the patient, not the policy-holder, to protect privacy in sensitive or dangerous situations.

HB 3343 & HB 2879 Improving Access to Birth Control

House Bill 3343 makes Oregon the first state in the nation to ensure that women can access a full 12-month supply of birth control, by requiring insurance companies to cover the cost up front rather than across multiple trips to the pharmacy. House Bill 2879 will allow women to obtain birth control directly from pharmacists without a doctor’s visit. These bills will improve women’s access and agency in using birth control, helping to support consistent birth control use, and driving down unintended pregnancies in Oregon.

HB 3400 Effectively Implementing Legal Marijuana

House Bill 3400 enacts important changes to Measure 91 to ensure effective and safe implementation of legal retail marijuana in Oregon. This includes: product testing, labelling, and safety requirements; local control provisions; accountability and licensing requirements for marijuana growers, processors, and retailers; and revisions to the medical marijuana program to make sure patients can still get what they need.

SB 705 Asbestos Testing

Senate Bill 705 requires the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to adopt rules requiring contractors to perform a survey to determine whether a residence is insulated with asbestos prior to beginning demolition. This will allow steps to be taken against exposure to asbestos when a building is demolished, protecting the health of neighboring households.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Quality Health Care & Human Services (*continued*)

SB 5526 Oregon Health Authority Budget

Senate Bill 5526 continues funding for expanded health coverage for over 400,000 Oregonians who receive care on the Oregon Health Plan under Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act. The budget partially restores dental benefits previously reduced in the Oregon Health Plan, includes funding to open four wards at the Junction City campus of the Oregon State Hospital, and continues to cap growth for benefits spending at 3.4 percent for the Public Employees Benefit Board, the Oregon Educators Benefit Board, and the Oregon Health Plan.

HB 5026 Department of Human Services Budget

House Bill 5026 directs \$30 million general fund from caseload savings to maintain Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program staffing to help participants transition off the program, strengthen families, and prevent program reentry. The budget includes \$6 million to continue an Oregon Project Independence pilot for services to individuals with disabilities under the age of 60, and adds \$45 million to the Employment-Related Day Care program to allow more families to access the program.

SB 144 Expanding Telemedicine

Telemedicine is an effective alternative to face-to-face provider and patient interactions, particularly in rural areas that have less access to medical services. In 2014, a Telemedicine Reimbursement Expansion Workgroup was created to consider expanding telemedicine outside of institutional settings in Oregon. Senate Bill 144 is the result of that workgroup's recommendations. The bill requires that health benefit plans cover telemedical health services, which will ensure that Oregonians can receive the care they need, wherever they are.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Quality Health Care & Human Services (*continued*)

SB 71 Updating Oregon's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

The Oregon Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) was created in 2009 to help healthcare providers and pharmacists manage patients' prescriptions, reducing the rate of prescription drug misuse and overdose. The program requires pharmacies to report to the PDMP within one week when they dispense certain restricted drugs. The goal is to work towards a "real-time" reporting system and to make the PDMP more effective in alerting pharmacies when a patient has filled multiple prescriptions. Senate Bill 71 reduces the reporting timeframe down to 72 hours, improving the timeliness and utility of PDMP information.

SB 93 Managing Chronic Health During an Emergency

In the event of a major disaster, Oregonians may be prevented from accessing chronic condition medications. Many health benefit plans currently allow for up to a 90-day supply for chronic condition medications, however, getting this supply can be cost prohibitive to a patient if they use a non-network pharmacy, or mail order service. Senate Bill 93 will help make sure chronic disease patients who are stable on a medication are able to get a full 90-day supply of their medication, increasing the likelihood that they will be able to manage their condition in the event of an emergency or natural disaster.

***SB 190 Nicotine Transport Licensure**

Part of a package of bills aimed at reducing underage access to nicotine products—particularly 'e-cigarettes'—Senate Bill 190 prohibits the shipping and transporting of nicotine products to unlicensed individuals. The Attorney General introduced the bill in order to address the largely unregulated 'e-cigarette' market, marketed heavily to underage consumers. The bill will allow only licensed retailers and distributors to engage in the shipping and transport of these products, providing oversight and accountability in the nicotine product distribution market.

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

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Quality Health Care & Human Services (*continued*)

SB 226 Stabilization and Crisis Unit

The Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU) within the Department of Human Services provides for some of the most acute, medically and behaviorally challenged individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. SACU consists of 23 residential homes around Oregon. Over the last few years, the client population coming to SACU homes has changed: clients have more acute, serious needs, and often have more difficult behaviors for staff to manage. This has led to an increase in aggressive and assaultive incidents, staff injury, and occasional community risk. In response to changing staff and client needs, Senate Bill 226 establishes a multidisciplinary Task Force on Client and Staff Safety to improve the safety and success of the SACU program.

Additionally, to address safety and staffing concerns within the SACU program, the Legislature has invested \$13.4 million total in the DHS budget, and funded 127 permanent positions to support a floating staff pool to cover SACU staffing gaps and reduce overtime, and established Crisis and Outreach Teams (COAT) to be first responders to critical incidents.

SB 231 Primary Care Transformation Initiative

Health system transformation efforts driven by the Oregon Health Authority, including the Patient-Centered Primary Care Home (PCPCH) program, have improved the level of primary care transformation occurring in clinics around Oregon. However, uneven payer commitment means that some groups have reaped the benefits of transformation without investing in the change. Senate Bill 231 requires certain insurance carriers to report the proportion of total medical expenses allocated to primary care. The bill also requires the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to convene a primary care payment reform collaborative to advise and assist OHA in developing the Primary Care Transformation Initiative.

SB 301 Increasing Dental Care Access

Senate Bill 301 expands access to dental care services by allowing dental hygienists to obtain an expanded practice permit without needing to enter into a collaborative agreement with a dentist.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Quality Health Care & Human Services (*continued*)

SB 307 Respecting Patient Choice in Continuing Care Communities

Residents in continuing care retirement communities (CCRC) often need assistance with activities of daily living, including personal care such as toileting, bathing, dressing, and personal hygiene. Senate Bill 307 requires CCRCs to respect a resident's request to have a same-gender caregiver provide these personal services, whenever possible, and details a grievance process for a facility's failure to comply.

***SB 416 Smoke Shop Certification Fee**

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) certifies smoke shops across Oregon. The cost of certification is currently covered using funds dedicated for tobacco prevention and education. Senate Bill 416 would require businesses applying for certification as a smoke shop to pay a fee determined by OHA to cover the costs, rather than funding this process through tobacco prevention and education funds.

SB 469 Updating Oregon's Hospital Nurse Staffing Law

In 2001 the Legislature passed House Bill 2800, establishing a nursing services staffing law for Oregon's hospitals. The law requires hospitals to establish a hospital nurse staffing committee (HNSC) to develop staffing plans based on patient needs and nursing staff qualifications. Senate Bill 469 updates the original law: making some key improvements to better enforce staffing plan requirements; to empower an HNSC in their role; to increase accountability, transparency, and worker protections in the staffing process; and to provide a mechanism for mediating conflicts between an HNSC and a hospital. These changes to Oregon's nurse staffing law promise to improve patient safety, create a better work environment for Oregon's nurses and hospital care teams, and save costs in our health care system.

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

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Quality Health Care & Human Services (*continued*)

SB 505 Protecting Oregon's Seniors from the Flu

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that adults 65 years of age and older are at higher risk for flu-related complications than other populations, and recommends flu vaccines to this age group. The Oregon Health Authority reports that Oregon's flu vaccination rate for this population falls short of national targets. To bring Oregon closer to annual recommended flu immunization rates, Senate Bill 505 requires all hospitals, between October and March 1, to offer a flu shot to patients 65 and older.

SB 520 Improving Oregonians' Access to Vaccines

Currently, qualified pharmacists in Oregon can administer certain vaccines to children 11 and older. To improve accessibility and convenience of child immunizations, Senate Bill 520 lowers this allowable age, permitting pharmacists to administer vaccines to children age 7 and older. Vaccines will still be stored and provided in keeping with existing regulations and recommended schedules, this will simply allow for another venue for parents to access necessary immunizations for their kids.

SB 547 Bolstering Oregon's Nursing Workforce

Currently, the Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN) grants retired status to certain qualified nurses who surrender their license or certificate while in good standing. Retired status nurses are prohibited from practicing nursing. OSBN reports that since 2010, 744 nurses have been given this designation, and 1,758 have simply allowed their licenses to expire. With a nurse shortage projected in coming years, Senate Bill 547 provides a practical solution, by permitting OSBN to issue a nurse emeritus license to continue to benefit from nurses who may want to continue to practice in a limited role. This licensure will allow certain retired nurses to engage in voluntary, uncompensated nursing, supplementing Oregon's health care workforce needs.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Quality Health Care & Human Services (*continued*)

SB 561 Crisis Response Following Youth Suicide

In the aftermath of a youth or teen suicide, supports at the local level are often critical in helping peers, students, and a community through crisis, and preventing other suicides. Senate Bill 561 directs the Oregon Health Authority to develop a plan for communication among local mental health authorities and other local systems to improve notification and information sharing when a suicide of someone under 24 occurs.

SB 606 Dental Care Projects

Senate Bill 606 extends the time period for the Oregon Health Authority to conduct a pilot program for dental projects that bring dental care to underserved populations with high disease rates. The pilot project specifically encourages the development of innovative practices in oral health care delivery with a focus on providing care to populations that evidence-based studies have shown have the highest disease rates and the least access to dental care.

SB 660 Oral Health Promotion

Senate Bill 660 directs the Oregon Health Authority to promote oral health throughout the state by ensuring availability of dental sealant programs to students attending school in Oregon. The bill will ensure increased education about the availability of dental sealants in schools, promoting access to oral health in Oregon.

SB 672 State Dental Health Director

Over the last five years, Oregon has undergone an unprecedented transformation in our health care delivery system. Oral health is a critical component to overall health, and in February 2015, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) hired a dental director to oversee oral health programs and policy. Senate Bill 672 supports the actions OHA has begun to take, and codifies this dental director position in law. The bill requires OHA to appoint a state dental director to focus on access to, and improvement of, dental health services across Oregon.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Quality Health Care & Human Services (*continued*)

SB 698 State School Nursing Consultant

In 2009 the Legislature recommended that Oregon achieve a ratio of one school nurse for every 750 students by 2020. Currently, Oregon is far from this target with only one school nurse for every 4,054 students. Senate Bill 698 provides the state with the tools necessary to meet this goal by 2020. The bill creates a School Nursing Consultant in the Oregon Health Authority, to work in partnership with the Oregon Department of Education, and establishes a Task Force on School Nursing to recommend sustainable funding sources for school-based health and nursing services.

SB 832 Integrating Mental and Physical Health

The integration of physical and mental health care is a core part of Oregon's health care transformation goals. Senate Bill 832 makes major strides in ensuring that people can get mental health services where they need them most—creating a “no wrong door” practice for patients, and a “no wrong code” policy for providers to bill for appropriate services. The bill defines behavioral health homes to be used by coordinated care organizations, and requires the Oregon Health Authority to set standards for achieving integration of behavioral and physical health services in existing patient-centered primary care homes and newly established behavioral health homes. This bill supports the kind of multidisciplinary approach and partnerships that will ensure patients can get quality care when, and how, they need it.

SB 895 School Immunization Rate Transparency

Oregon currently has one of the highest immunization exemption rates in the country. During the 2013-2014 school year the rate of non-medical exemptions was 7 percent statewide, with some counties reporting non-medical exemption rates from 14-16 percent. Certain children and other medically vulnerable people can't receive immunizations, and may be at higher risk for health issues if they contract a vaccine-preventable illness or disease from someone at school. Senate Bill 895 will help parents make informed decisions for their children by requiring schools and children's facilities to make immunization and exemption rate data available in an easy-to-read format, for example on their website or in a newsletter. This is a simple step—using existing data reporting, and the expertise of local health departments and the Oregon Health Authority—to protect children and medically vulnerable Oregonians.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Quality Health Care & Human Services (*continued*)

SB 905 Adding a Physician Assistant to the Oregon Medical Board

There are currently over 1,500 Physician Assistants (PA) licensed in Oregon, and regulated by the Oregon Medical Board (OMB). Despite being regulated by the OMB, there are no PAs represented in OMB membership. Senate Bill 905 fixes this, adding one physician assistant or retired physician assistant to the OMB, ensuring that those with the most thorough knowledge, experience, and skills from their respective fields are involved in the monitoring of licensees, and at the table for important discussions of their industry.

HB 2023 & HB 2948 Suicide Prevention

House Bill 2023 requires hospitals to adopt and enforce certain discharge protocols for mental health patients that encourage involvement of a patient's support system, and promote follow-up care. House Bill 2948 clarifies when and to whom protected health information may be disclosed by a healthcare provider, without authorization from the individual. During a mental health crisis, coordination among an individual's support system and caregivers is essential, and HB 2948 will help ensure that caregivers can get the necessary information to support someone in crisis and prevent suicide.

HB 2024 Improving Access to Basic Preventive Dental Services

Oregon's Traditional Health Workers are trained and certified community health workers, personal health navigators, and peer wellness specialists who provide a range of health education and services, particularly to underserved communities. House Bill 2024 expands the role of Traditional Health Workers, authorizing them to be trained to provide basic preventive dental health services like screenings, fluoride varnish applications, and referrals to dentists. This approach will reduce barriers to getting dental care, and improve dental health in Oregon.

HB 2219 Streamlining Applications for Human Services

Our state delivers a wide range of services for Oregonians in need. Despite overlap in many of these programs—cash assistance, housing, education services, health care, food benefits, etc.—applications for services often stand alone, leading to duplication, wasted paper, and wasted time for agencies and individuals. House Bill 2219 will convene a work group of several human services agencies to examine consolidating applications for services.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Quality Health Care & Human Services (*continued*)

HB 2234 Investing in Child Abuse Prevention and Response

The Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers (CAICs) provides assessment and intervention services for abused and neglected children across Oregon—currently 21 centers serve over 6,000 children annually. To ensure that all kids can get appropriate, safe, and timely specialized care in their community, these centers and their services must be fully funded in all corners of the state. House Bill 2234 requires the Oregon Health Authority and health benefit plans in Oregon to pay for child abuse medical assessments and related services.

HB 2300 “Right-to-Try” Treatment for Terminally Ill Patients

House Bill 2300 creates a “Right-to-Try” law in Oregon, outlining the process by which certain terminally ill patients can try an experimental treatment that hasn’t yet been FDA-approved. Several other states have considered and passed similar legislation in recent years.

HB 2361 Protecting Vulnerable Oregonians in Court

Oregon’s Long-Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO) provides free services to residents of long term care facilities, including complaint investigation, advocacy, consultations, and guardianship services to people who have no suitable guardian or conservator and cannot afford a professional guardian. Occasionally, the LTCO and organizations like Disability Rights Oregon—a nonprofit law office providing advocacy and legal services to people with disabilities—may step in during a protective guardianship proceeding. House Bill 2361 encourages these organizations to continue providing these important oversight services by prohibiting courts from charging them with certain filing fees in a protective proceeding.

HB 2363 Humane Treatment for Mental Health Patients

Occasionally, individuals experiencing a mental health crisis end up in hospitals, sometimes under an involuntary mental health hold awaiting further evaluation and potential action for civil commitment. Oregon’s current law requires hospitals to document any use of restraints on these patients, as this kind of intervention can be harmful. House Bill 2363 adds the use of seclusion or isolation to the list of interventions that must be documented, recognizing that isolation can be equally damaging to patients in crisis, and should be documented and tracked thoroughly.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Quality Health Care & Human Services (*continued*)

HB 2414 Connecting Adoptees to Family

The Department of Human Services (DHS), through Oregon's Adoption Search and Registry Program, maintains records of all adoptions that have finalized in Oregon since 1920. House Bill 2414 allows DHS to add genetic siblings of adoptees to the voluntary adoption search registry, a group that was previously excluded in state law. House Bill 2414 recognizes that some adoptees have a strong desire to learn more about their birth families, and permits DHS to include sibling information as part of the voluntary search registry, for those family members who might want to be identified by adopted siblings.

HB 2419 Defining Oregon's Health Care Interpreters

House Bill 2419 outlines the qualifications and training requirements to be considered an "Oregon certified health care interpreter," and includes sign language interpreters in the clarified definition. The work of health care interpreters is central to ensuring that our health care system is equitable, inclusive, and accessible to all Oregonians, regardless of disability status. HB 2419 will help ensure that practicing interpreters are adequately qualified to meet patients' needs.

HB 2560 Preventing Colorectal Cancer

In 2014, the Legislature has passed a measure to ensure that all Oregonians can get screened for colorectal cancer, at no cost. However, many patients with a positive screening cannot afford the follow-up colonoscopy, which is not guaranteed to be covered by insurance. House Bill 2560 will fix this, by requiring health benefit plans to cover the cost of follow-up colonoscopy and related care when a patient has had a positive screening.

HB 2600 Protecting Health Coverage during Medical Leave

House Bill 2600 closes a gap in the Oregon Family Leave Act that could allow some employers to drop an employee's medical coverage while that employee is out on medical leave. With passage of this bill, an employee can count on their coverage to be there when they need it most.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Quality Health Care & Human Services (*continued*)

HB 2638 Expanding Oregon's Prescription Drug Program

In 2003 the Oregon Legislature authorized the formation of the Oregon Prescription Drug Program (OPDP), a prescription drug purchasing pool that combines purchasing power to reduce drug costs to consumers. House Bill 2638 adds state medical assistance programs and coordinated care organizations to the list of groups that can use the OPDP, allowing beneficiaries to share in increased transparency and cost savings.

HB 2796 Music Therapy Licensing and Title Act

Music Therapy is an established health profession in which music is used within a therapeutic relationship to address physical, emotional, cognitive and social needs of individuals. House Bill 2796 authorizes the Health Licensing Office (HLO) to issue licenses to practice music therapy and establishes the criteria for granting a license to an applicant. Music Therapists must have a license from HLO in order to treat patients under the title of 'Music Therapist'.

HB 2828 Options for Financing Health Care in Oregon

A 2013 law required the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to conduct an externally-funded study to compare four types of structures for financing health care delivery, with the aim of ensuring that the Legislature has the information necessary to determine the best next steps for Oregon's health care transformation efforts. The original measure required OHA to report by 2015, however, OHA hasn't identified full funding in order to complete the study at present. House Bill 2828 allows additional time, and invests \$300,000 for OHA to contract with a third party to conduct the study by 2016.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Quality Health Care & Human Services (*continued*)

HB 2934 Basic Health Program

House Bill 2934 continues the work Oregon has undertaken to explore the possibility of operating a program called “Basic Health” (BHP), an option under the Affordable Care Act to provide health coverage to certain consumers who don’t qualify for Medicaid, but don’t quite make enough for commercial plans to be affordable. In 2014, the Legislature passed a bill commissioning an independent study of the costs and impacts of operating a BHP in Oregon, and the resulting report was issued in October 2014. HB 2934 is the next step in this process—the bill directs the Oregon Health Authority to convene a workgroup to consider the findings of the report, and make recommendations to the Legislature by the end of 2015 on how a BHP should operate in Oregon.

HB 3139 Mobile Medical Clinics in Rural Oregon

Across Oregon, some local governments do not have codes or policies that allow medical services to be provided by a mobile medical or dental clinic for an extended period of time—usually longer than a week. This can be a problem in rural Oregon, where a permanent brick-and-mortar clinic may not be feasible due to a small patient population and/or funding base. House Bill 3139 gives Oregon’s rural communities the option to site mobile medical clinics for up to 180 days, providing needed access to health services by licensed professionals in underserved areas.

HB 3230 Community Mental Health Resources

House Bill 3230 creates a way for the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and the Department of Human Services to (DHS) register and oversee certain residential and community-based structured housing settings. Many such facilities are already providing important behavioral health substance abuse related services across the state, but don’t fit into the current definitions and standards for treatment facilities. This bill will give OHA and DHS the authority to set common standards and safeguards for these settings, register them centrally, and track them across communities.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Quality Health Care & Human Services (*continued*)

HB 3301 Naturopathic Physicians as Primary Care Providers

Naturopathic Doctors (ND) are trained as primary care providers, often providing the same preventive, diagnostic, and referral services as other physicians. However in Oregon, NDs are classified by some insurance carriers as “specialists”, bumping up the cost and limiting consumers’ access to primary care by an ND. House Bill 3301 allows NDs to apply to be credentialed as a primary care physician, so long as they meet an insurer’s criteria. This will improve consistency across insurance carriers, increase consumer choice, and help address Oregon’s shortage of available primary care providers.

HB 3378 CARE (Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable) Act

As our population ages, the role of family caregiving has shifted and expanded. In addition to assistance with activities or daily living, family caregivers often now take on more advanced tasks like wound care, medication management, and injections. To help ensure that family caregivers have the support and training they need to transition from the hospital to the home, House Bill 3378 establishes the CARE (“Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable”) Act, requiring all hospitals in Oregon to adopt discharge policies that include lay caregiver instruction and training, with the goal of better involving and preparing family caregivers as members of a patient’s care team.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Environment & Rural Oregon

SB 324 Clean Fuels Program Expansion

A significant economic and environmental victory, Senate Bill 324 removes the sunset on provisions related to Oregon's low carbon fuel standard. Commonly referred to as the Clean Fuels Program, the program requires oil companies to gradually reduce their share of carbon pollution, for a net reduction of 10 percent over ten years. The Clean Fuels program is expected to help drive innovation and business growth across Oregon's clean energy sector.

SB 478 Toxic-Free Kids Act

The Oregon Toxic-Free Kids Act requires the Oregon Health Authority to establish a list of chemicals especially hazardous to children's health and requires some manufacturers to incrementally phase out the use of these chemicals in kids' products. The bill addresses increasing concerns about exposure to toxic chemicals that are known to cause developmental disorders and other damaging health effects in children.

SB 705 Asbestos Testing

Senate Bill 705 requires the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to adopt rules requiring contractors to perform a survey to determine whether a residence is insulated with asbestos prior to beginning demolition. This will allow steps to be taken against exposure to asbestos when a building is demolished, protecting the health of neighboring households.

***SB 913 Banning Ivory Trafficking**

Currently, a federal ban prohibits nearly all commercial imports, exports, and interstate sales of elephant ivory. However, experts say these laws are confusing and ineffective. This leaves ivory sales within states uncontrolled, enabling a black market for new ivory without any oversight or jurisdiction given to local law enforcement. Senate Bill 913 will allow Oregon to join the fight against poaching and organized crime.

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

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Environment & Rural Oregon (*continued*)

HB 2734 & HB 5030 Cleaning up Polluted Sites for Business Development

House Bill 2734 gives local governments the ability to create land bank authorities, an innovative tool to clean up brownfields—former industrial or commercial sites where development is hindered by real or perceived environmental contamination. Left untouched, these properties pose threats to human health and the environment while also undermining economic development and failing to contribute to the local and state economies. House Bill 5030 allocates \$7 million for these efforts to help cities and counties make better use of their land.

SB 611 Central Assessment

Because of the Northwest's access to affordable land and electricity, rural Oregon has become an attractive location for data centers in the last decade. However, questions about how data centers should be assessed for property taxes and subsequent court cases have created complications and uncertainty for businesses looking to establish data centers in Oregon. Senate Bill 611 clarifies that companies investing in data centers in Oregon will not be assessed on their total global value. This change will give large businesses, like Amazon and Google, the certainty they need to maintain their investments and start new construction of data centers in Oregon while guaranteeing a steady flow of revenue for local governments.

SB 144 Expanding Telemedicine

Telemedicine is an effective alternative to face-to-face provider and patient interactions, particularly in rural areas that have less access to medical services. In 2014, a Telemedicine Reimbursement Expansion Workgroup was created to consider expanding telemedicine outside of institutional settings in Oregon. Senate Bill 144 is the result of that workgroup's recommendations. The bill requires that health benefit plans cover telemedical health services, which will ensure that Oregonians can receive the care they need, wherever they are.

HB 3011 Rural Self-Serve Gasoline

House Bill 3011 allows gas stations in rural parts of Oregon to provide self-serve gas to customers between the hours of 6 PM and 6 AM. This applies to any county with a population under 40,000 including most Eastern Oregon counties as well as Clatsop, Tillamook, and Hood River Counties.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Environment & Rural Oregon (*continued*)

SB 263 Updating the ‘Opportunity to Recycle’ Program

Senate Bill 263 updates the original ‘Opportunity to Recycle’ program for cities and counties to manage and implement local recycling programs. The bill authorizes local governments to charge a fee on solid waste collection in order to cover costs for recycling programs. SB 263 also updates goals and modernizes recycling standards for waste and recycling and requires urban areas like Portland and Eugene to increase materials recovery above what is required for other parts of the state.

SB 266 Grants for “Place-Based” Water Strategies

In 2012, Oregon’s Water Resources Department (WRD) adopted an Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS), creating a statewide framework and path for meeting Oregon’s instream and out-of-stream water needs. One recommendation in the IWRS called for communities to voluntarily undertake a “place-based” approach to planning, by which communities understand and meet their unique water resources needs. Senate Bill 266 advances the state’s strategy by authorizing the WRD to issue grants to fund voluntary, locally-driven planning processes that can support communities across the state in addressing water-related challenges and opportunities.

SB 306 Inspecting & Repairing Critical Levees

Many flood control levees in Oregon need inspection and repairs, and must be certified under the National Flood Insurance Program to maintain affordable flood insurance for area property owners. Senate Bill 306 addresses this issue by allowing existing public works funds to be used for levee inspection and repair. The Legislature also dedicated \$5 million for this use.

SB 319 & HB 2187 Ocean Renewable Energy

Marine renewable energy—wave energy and offshore wind—is an exciting new option for renewable energy development. Since the mid-2000s, Oregon has been working to figure out how to best site marine energy projects in Oregon’s Territorial Sea (0-3 miles offshore). Senate Bill 319 provides clear guidance to the Department of State Lands to assess and issue permits for renewable ocean energy projects large and small in Oregon’s coastal waters. House Bill 2187 reflects Oregon’s leadership and commitment to renewable energy, establishing a state policy position calling on regional planning bodies to consider marine energy in their long term energy planning processes.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Environment & Rural Oregon (*continued*)

SB 341 Balanced Liability Protections for Farm and Ranch Events

Farmers and ranchers are increasingly turning to agritourism activities, including farm stays, pumpkin patches, and harvest-your-own activities, to generate extra income and sell their products directly to the public. Senate Bill 341 provides balanced protection from liability for farmers and ranchers so they can continue providing these activities while preserving the public's right to sue for negligence or disregard for safety in a court of law.

HB 3239 Improving Farmers' Access to Capital

Oregon's Beginning and Expanding Farm Loan Program provides a tax incentive for private lenders to provide loans to small farmers. House Bill 3239 bill adds certain farm lenders and finance agreements to the lenders and loans eligible for this program.

SB 439 Outdoor School Program Account

Outdoor school programs are associated with increased graduation rates and renewed student interest in their education. Senate Bill 439 directs the Oregon State University Extension Service to assist school districts in providing outdoor school programs through the creation of an Outdoor Education Account. This bill will expand access to Outdoor School Education for many districts that were previously unable to offer the program individually. The bill does not provide any direct funding.

SB 534 Providing Infrastructure to Airports

Senate Bill 534 allows cities to provide sewer and water services to an airport without annexing the airport through the state's land use system. This change is expected to help aviation-related business locate and expand at a handful of small airports in Oregon.

SB 667 Supporting Oregon's Small Schools

In the face of declining enrollment and other factors, Oregon's small and rural schools often face challenges in maintaining important classes and programs for their students. Senate Bill 667 will continue an annual investment in the Small School District Supplement Fund through 2020, helping to ensure that children at small schools to have the same opportunities as students in other parts of Oregon.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Environment & Rural Oregon (*continued*)

SB 912 Ending Legal Limbo for Oregon Property Owners

Senate Bill 912 establishes a process for the Department of State Lands to clarify and finalize the ownership of historically submerged lands, which has been unclear for decades. This measure will end legal limbo for rural Oregonians whose property titles have long been unclear.

SB 5544 Grants for Wolf-Related Livestock Losses

The bill provides \$100,000 to the Department of Agriculture to continue the Wolf Compensation and Grant Assistance program, which supports the reduction of wolf/livestock interactions and provides compensation for wolf-related livestock losses. The bill also appropriates about \$200,000 for the Department of Fish and Wildlife to continue work on sage grouse habitat improvement and species preservation.

HB 2182 Statewide Predator Management

House Bill 2182 requires the State Department of Fish and Wildlife to study developing a predator management plan for the State and to report back to interim committees of the Legislative Assembly. The bill will facilitate a scientific and economically feasible statewide predator management policy, ensuring that all Oregonians have healthy populations for hunting, viewing and fishing.

HB 2209 Oregon Shellfish Task Force

House Bill 2209 establishes the Oregon Shellfish Task Force to address shellfish production issues in Oregon. The task force will develop an Oregon Shellfish Initiative that sets forth priorities and implementation strategies for shellfish production with regard to ocean acidification, commercial production, recreational practices, and other challenges. The bill also directs the Oregon Department of Agriculture to develop a pilot project for monitoring water quality in Tillamook Bay.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Environment & Rural Oregon (*continued*)

HB 2402 Task Force on Funding for Fish, Wildlife and Related Outdoor Recreation and Education

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) receives funding from several sources, including the sale of hunting and fishing licenses, federal funds, and other sources. House Bill 2402 establishes a Task Force charged with identifying and recommending alternative and sustainable funding sources for ODFW and opportunities for ODFW to better achieve its mission and conservation program objectives through leveraging funding sources. The Task Force is required to report to the Legislature by the end of 2016.

HB 2453 Protecting our State Forests

Oregon's state forests are prized public resources. Recently, some large, unpermitted commercial social events—concerts, “raves”, and festivals—have drawn hundreds of attendees and vehicles to our state forests, raising serious public safety, law enforcement, fire danger, and other natural resource damage concerns. House Bill 2453 would require certain large-scale, organized gatherings in state forestlands to be permitted by the Oregon Department of Forestry. Regulating these types of events will minimize the potential for negative impacts on sensitive timber and forest management areas, as well as risks to public health and safety.

HB 2463 Safety on Public Waterways

House Bill 2463 allows the Department of State Lands to remove derelict and abandoned structures—vessels, submerged docks, marine debris, etc.—from state waterways when an owner has failed to remedy the problem. This bill will help ensure that our lakes, rivers, and territorial sea are safer for Oregonians who want to fish, travel, and enjoy recreation on Oregon's more than 1.2 million acres of state-owned waterways.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Environment & Rural Oregon (*continued*)

HB 2509 Encouraging Mediation for Farming Coexistence Issues

House Bill 2509 outlines a process for farmers to access low-cost mediation services through the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to help neighboring farmers identify voluntary ways to deal with coexistence issues. This bill incentivizes mediation as a first line of recourse for resolving disputes, potentially avoiding costly litigation or interventions. The bill will also assist ODA in tracking and understanding trends in farming coexistence conflicts to help determine how to best support all farmers in the future.

HB 2534 Restricting Drones from Hunting and Fishing

House Bill 2534 allows the State Fish and Wildlife Commission to prohibit the use of drones for hunting, trapping, scouting, and fishing. When wildlife officials determine bag and license sale limits for a state, they generally do so with traditional hunting methods and standard success rates in mind. The use of drones in hunting can negatively impact wildlife populations, and undermines the core ethical principle in hunting of a 'fair chase'. HB 2534 will help prevent the use of this unsporting method in Oregon.

HB 2652 Economic Development Outside Cities

House Bill 2652 changes the criteria for the rural economic development portion of the Strategic Investment Program, which allows local governments to provide a property tax break for major development opportunities. This change will ensure that only truly rural communities use this tool, and allow more of them to do so, helping rural communities thrive.

HB 2997 Western Juniper Harvesting and Commercialization

House Bill 2997 allocates \$250,000 in lottery funds to promote the harvesting and commercialization of western juniper as a wood product. An invasive species, western juniper now dominates many parts of the high desert land in Eastern Oregon. This bill helps jumpstart the use of juniper for wood products by authorizing Business Oregon to provide technical assistance, promote market development, and administer and distribute funds. Commercialization of western juniper will benefit rangeland restoration efforts and provide valuable new materials for the wood products industry to expand and add jobs.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Environment & Rural Oregon (*continued*)

HB 2998 Developing the Western Juniper Industry

House Bill 2998 allocates \$800,000 in lottery funds and \$100,000 of general fund to support four activities that will help the commercialization of western juniper: economic development assistance loans, technical assistance to juniper businesses, workforce training projects, and mapping of marketable juniper stands.

HB 3012 Oregon Hatchery Research Center Fund

Established in 2005, the Oregon Hatchery Research Center (OHRC) in Alsea is a unique cooperative research project between the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Oregon State University. OHRC plays a key role in developing fisheries science and in supporting state conservation and native fish protection efforts. House Bill 3012 establishes a stable funding source to support the research efforts of OHRC, providing the long-term investment necessary to allow OHRC to provide the science necessary for sound, evidence-based policy making.

HB 3030 Sand Control Districts

House Bill 3030 authorizes the creation of sand control districts to control drifting sand, an ongoing problem for small communities on the coast. Sand control districts will allow coastal communities to pool their resources to control drifting sand. A sand control district, if created, would be able to tax residents in its area and enter contracts to control sand drifting.

HB 3068 Reducing Woodstove Smoke Pollution

Woodstoves are a major source of air pollution and, since 1991, Oregon has required that new woodstoves be certified to meet air pollution standards. House Bill 3068 directs Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to form a work group to study and develop recommendations for reducing woodstove smoke and report back to the Legislature by September 2016. DEQ will involve rural and urban stakeholders in this group, and the strategies the group examines must include consideration of wood pellet and biomass fuels—two potential economic drivers for rural Oregon industry.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Environment & Rural Oregon (*continued*)

HB 3089 Mineral Resources Study

House Bill 3089 requires the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries to study the potential of mineral resources in Eastern and Southern Oregon. The study will include a list of all relevant mineral inventories and studies on the issue that were previously conducted, as well as make recommendations for continuous mineral resource assessment activities.

HB 3148 Relief to Low-Income Wildfire Victims

House Bill 3148 will provide critical relief to low-income victims of wildfire by creating the Wildfire Damage Housing Account within the Oregon Housing Fund. With this legislation, qualifying households that suffer a housing loss caused by wildfire are eligible for a one-time grant distribution of \$5,000.

HB 3188 Predator Management in Rural Oregon

Many rural Oregonians rely on effective predator management to prevent costly damage to their livestock or timber. House Bill 3188 gives certain landowners in Coos and Douglas counties the option to petition the county to form a predator damage control district, giving these landowners the ability to voluntarily contribute to funding predator management services. As existing funding sources dwindle, this bill will help farmers protect their livestock and timber, without a cost to the general fund.

HB 3333 Using Salmon License Plate Funds Wisely

House Bill 3333 requires that a portion of the funds collected from salmon license plate fees only be used for projects to protect or restore native salmon habitat or to remove artificial obstructions to native salmon migration. Under this legislation, funds collected from the salmon license will be used primarily for stream restoration.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Environment & Rural Oregon (*continued*)

HB 3362 Pollinator Health

Oregon's insect-pollinated agricultural economy generates approximately \$600 million per year. Pollinator populations have suffered significant losses over recent years due to complex interactions among multiple stressors, including pests, pathogens, viruses, poor nutrition, pesticide exposure, bee management practices, and a lack of genetic diversity. In 2014, the Legislature passed a measure requiring Oregon State University (OSU) and the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), to develop educational materials regarding best practices for avoiding adverse effects from pesticides on populations of bees and other pollinating insects. House Bill 3362 builds on this work, expanding the 2014 law to require OSU and ODA to develop a public outreach and education plan. The bill also directs ODA to develop a bee incident reporting system, to facilitate public reporting of incidents related to pollinator health.

HB 2653 Neighborhood Beekeeping

Beekeeping in Oregon's residential and urban areas has become increasingly popular and, prior to passage of House Bill 2653, no statewide rules or standards for keeping bees in residential zones existed. HB 2653 requires the Oregon State University Extension Service to work with the state Department of Agriculture to create a set of best practices for beekeeping in residential areas, and allows localities to adopt ordinances in keeping with these newly-developed best practices.

HB 3396 Healthcare Providers in Rural Oregon

House Bill 3396 requires the Oregon Health Policy Board to study and evaluate the effectiveness of existing financial incentive programs as well as address new types of programs to recruit and retain health care providers to practice in rural and medically underserved areas in Oregon. The bill will address a ongoing need to incentivize qualified healthcare providers to practice in Rural Oregon.

HB 3402 Highway Speed in Rural Oregon

House Bill 3402 increases the speed limit to 70 miles per hour for most vehicles (65 miles per hour for heavy vehicles) on certain stretches of highway in areas of rural Oregon.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Public Safety & Justice

SB 941 Background Checks on all Gun Sales

The Oregon Firearm Safety Act requires a criminal background check at a gun dealership for person-to-person sales, with reasonable exceptions for family members, law enforcement, and certain temporary transfers. This legislation closes a significant loophole that previously allowed dangerous criminals to legally purchase firearms from strangers.

SB 525 Preventing Gun Violence in Domestic Violence Situations

Senate Bill 525 will protect families by bringing Oregon laws into alignment with federal laws prohibiting gun possession for perpetrators of domestic violence. The bill prohibits the possession of a firearm or ammunition by most people who are subject to a restraining order or who have been convicted of certain misdemeanor crimes involving domestic violence.

SB 3 Increased Penalty for Violating Domestic Violence Restraining Order

Oregon faces a domestic violence death nearly once a month. This bill better protects victims of domestic abuse by strengthening the enforcement of restraining orders. Senate Bill 3 increases the penalty for violating a Family Abuse Prevention Act restraining order, if there is clear risk of physical injury, to a Class C felony. The bill also gives judges the ability to make violations punishable by up to five years imprisonment, a \$125,000 fine, or both (Class C Felony).

SB 759 & HB 3476 Helping Victims of Campus Sexual Assault

In response to pressing concerns about how sexual assaults cases are handled on college campuses, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 759 and House Bill 3476. SB 759 requires higher education institutions in Oregon to adopt and make public a written protocol for responding to a sexual assault involving a student, faculty, or staff member. The protocol must include information on victims' rights, and resources on- and off-campus. HB 3476 ensures that victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, or stalking can seek support services without compromising their privacy. Under this bill, information shared with a certified advocate will be privileged communication, kept confidential unless a victim consents to disclosure. Together, both bills will help ensure that victims are informed, supported, and respected, especially on college campuses.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Public Safety & Justice (*continued*)

SB 188 Cracking Down on Revenge Porn

Senate Bill 188 was introduced in response to ongoing concerns about “revenge porn,” intimate images depicting sexual acts or explicit nudity, most often taken consensually within a romantic relationship and then uploaded without the consent of the person depicted after the relationship is over. Under this legislation, sharing these intimate images without the consent of the person in the image with the intent to harass, humiliate, or injure another person becomes illegal and classified as a Class A misdemeanor, elevated to a Class C felony for a second or subsequent conviction.

SB 377 Prohibiting Theft of an Intimate Image

Senate Bill 377 updates Oregon’s computer crime law to prohibit theft of an intimate image from a computer or other digital device. While it is already a felony to use a computer to commit theft, the lack of clear monetary value of an intimate image means that this harmful practice did not fall under state penalties. SB 377 closes that gap.

SB 492 Work Leave for Victims of Domestic Violence

Senate Bill 492 allows employees to use sick leave or personal business leave to seek services, assistance or treatment if they are a victim of domestic violence harassment, sexual assault or stalking. Prior to passage, employees could be limited to using only vacation leave for such purposes. The bill applies to workplaces with six or more employees.

SB 839 Good Samaritan Immunity Law for Drug Overdoses

Senate Bill 839 allows individuals to seek medical attention without fear of arrest when a person experiences a drug overdose. SB 839 will provide narrow legal immunity for possession charges against a person when they call for help with a drug overdose. The bill increases the likelihood that a person overdosing on drugs, or someone in their company, will call for medical assistance in time to make a critical difference.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Public Safety & Justice (*continued*)

SB 553 & SB 556 Responsible School Discipline

“Zero tolerance” school discipline—applying suspension and expulsion even to non-violent, disruptive offenses—has been shown to cause more harm than good, especially for students of color, students with disabilities, and economically disadvantaged students, who are disproportionately impacted by exclusionary discipline. Senate Bills 553 and 556 help make sure school discipline is applied appropriately and effectively, especially for young students. SB 553 prohibits school districts from imposing out-of-school suspensions on elementary school students for minor infractions. SB 556 will prohibit Oregon schools from using expulsion as a disciplinary measure to address truancy. Both bills were part of a package introduced to improve graduation rates and close the school-to-prison pipeline.

HB 2002 Ending Racial Profiling

House Bill 2002 establishes long-needed rules governing police profiling. Before passage the State of Oregon had no rules in place prohibiting law enforcement agencies from engaging in racial profiling and there was no definition of profiling in Oregon statute. HB 2002 fixes this omission and establishes a system for reporting complaints related to profiling.

HB 2571 Police Body Cameras

House Bill 2571 requires any law enforcement agency whose officers use body-mounted cameras to establish policies and procedures for retaining and releasing the recordings. The bill also protects the public by prohibiting use of the recordings for anything other than a legitimate law enforcement purpose and requires that faces on the video be blurred if the video is released.

HB 2704 Improving Police Transparency by Allowing Public Recording

Under current Oregon Law, it is a crime to record a conversation without specifically informing both parties. House Bill 2704 provides an exception to this law allowing a person to record a police officer acting in their official duties, in open and plain view, in a place where the person recording is legally allowed.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Public Safety & Justice (*continued*)

HB 2317 Doubling the Statute of Limitations on Rape

Oregon's six-year statute of limitations on rape and other certain sex crimes was one of the shortest in the country. House Bill 2317 doubles the statute of limitations for first degree sex crimes, including rape, to 12 years. Under current state law, there is no statute of limitations when DNA evidence is present.

HB 2596 Penalties for "Up Skirting" & "Down Blousing"

House Bill 2596 will make so-called "up-skirting" and "down-blousing" a crime. Prior law did not clarify that taking and circulating surreptitiously recorded images of people's intimate areas is unlawful in all cases.

HB 2776 Emergency Protective Orders

House Bill 2776 increases protection for people in danger of domestic violence or abuse by allowing law enforcement to obtain temporary emergency protective orders with the victim's permission and if the officer has probable cause to believe the person is in danger.

HB 3466 Protecting Victims from Assault

House Bill 3466 expands protections for assault victims from intimidation by defendants. The bill makes clear that a court order prohibiting a defendant from having contact with a victim—specifically in sex crime and domestic violence cases—must also include attempted contact by the defendant, either in person or through a third party.

HB 2700 Class Action Fairness

Major class action lawsuit reforms that increase corporate accountability and provide funds for legal services for vulnerable Oregonians. Prior to the bill's passage, a corporation found liable for harming the public was allowed to keep any unclaimed settlement funds. Under House Bill 2700, excess funds from a settlement will help fund Legal Aid services across Oregon.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Public Safety & Justice (*continued*)

HB 3025 Bans Consideration of Criminal History before Job Interview

House Bill 3025, "Ban the Box," will help Oregonians with prior arrests or convictions seek gainful employment. The bill creates an unlawful employment practice that bans employers from excluding consideration of a job applicant from an initial interview solely because of a past criminal conviction. The bill does not prevent an employer from considering an applicant's criminal history in making their hiring decisions.

SB 5531 State Police Budget

This budget increases funding for the Patrol Services Division by over 13 percent and adds 20 new trooper positions over the upcoming biennium, two new forensic scientist positions, and funding for 33 patrol cars. Additionally, the budget increases funding for criminal investigations and provides for the expansion of the Springfield forensic lab.

SB 601 Responding to Data Breaches & Protecting Personal Health Info

The Oregon Consumer Identity Theft Protection Act requires businesses and government agencies to institute safeguards for personal information and give notice to consumers of digital data breaches. Senate Bill 601 updates this law to include more types of personal information (including medical, biometric, and health information), and requires a company to notify the Attorney General when they experience a data breach affecting more than 250 people.

SB 614 Helping Police Prevent Animal Abuse

Current Oregon law allows a police officer to enter premises with a search warrant when the officer has probable cause to believe an animal is being abused or neglected. Aimed especially at preventing animals from suffering in hot parked vehicles, Senate Bill 614 ensures a police officer can enter a vehicle in the same circumstances.

SB 622 Mandatory Reporting of Abuse

Senate Bill 622 adds personal support workers and home care workers to list of mandatory reporters of abuse of children, elderly persons, and other vulnerable persons.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Public Safety & Justice (*continued*)

SB 641 Smartphone Data Privacy

Data stored on a smartphone or other portable electronic device can paint a near-complete picture of even the most intimate and personal details of someone's life. To ensure that law enforcement only access this data appropriately, Senate Bill 641 requires a warrant or consent to copy data from a portable electronic device and allows information obtained without a warrant or consent to be excluded from use in court.

SB 790 Domestic Violence Education in Schools

Oregon law currently requires school districts to have a policy in place that defines and prohibits teen dating violence and incorporates teen dating violence education into new or existing programs for students in grades 7 through 12. Senate Bill 790 expands on existing law, requiring such educational programs to also include education about domestic violence.

SB 85 Seismic Resilience

The Portland area has a high percentage of "unreinforced masonry" buildings. Many private building owners are interested in retrofitting these structures for earthquake preparedness, but the cost of doing so is prohibitive. Senate Bill 85 allows local jurisdictions to develop financial programs to assist qualifying private property owners to make seismic improvements, by adding seismic retrofits to the allowable activities under existing Property Assessed Clean Energy statutes.

SB 856 "Erin's Law" in Oregon—Preventing Child Sexual Abuse

"Erin's Law", named for child sex abuse survivor Erin Merryn, has been passed in more than 20 states nationwide. It requires public schools to implement a prevention-oriented child sexual abuse program to teach students, administrators, teachers, and parents how to recognize and report sexual abuse. Senate Bill 856 establishes an "Erin's Law" in Oregon, requiring school district boards to adopt a child sexual abuse prevention instructional program for K-12 students, as well as administrator/teacher training and parental involvement components.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Public Safety & Justice (*continued*)

SB 919 Accountability for False Threats

Oregon law already provides a higher penalty for knowingly and falsely reporting a bomb, fire, or other hazard in a school. Senate Bill 919 expands this offense to include false threats against court facilities and other public buildings.

SB 5506 Justice Reinvestment Initiative

Senate Bill 5506 provides \$25 million for justice reinvestment grants that fund local programs, such as drug and property offender diversion programs that provide an alternative to jail time. These programs have been shown to reduce crime and rehabilitate lower level offenders more effectively than incarceration.

SB 5507 Restoring Funding for the Family Preservation Project

The Family Preservation Project (FPP) grew out of an educational program started at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in 2003, which was taken over and funded by the Department of Corrections (DOC) in 2010. The FPP addresses the impact of incarceration on mothers and their families by enabling mothers to maintain a bond with their children and learn parenting skills while incarcerated. However funding in the DOC budget was not projected to be renewed in 2015. Senate Bill 5507 includes a one-time investment of \$400,000 over the 2015-17 biennium to for a community-based organization—the YWCA of Greater Portland—to continue running the FPP. The YWCA will implement the FPP, and the DOC will continue to play a significant cooperative role in partnership with the YWCA.

HB 2628 Improving Access to Stalking Protective Orders

Under current law, most stalking and protective orders are generally exempted from filing fees, but court fees can be charged in certain circumstances. House Bill 2628 will ensure that all stalking protection orders are available without court filing or service fees, a fix that will help make sure all persons feeling seriously threatened can access the protections they need.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Public Safety & Justice (*continued*)

HB 2601 Reporting Kidnapped Children

House Bill 2601 requires a police officer with probable cause to believe a child has been kidnapped or taken by a non-custodial parent to notify the Oregon State Police within 24 hours. This change will keep the State Police database as up to date as possible, making it more likely that taken children will be found safely and quickly.

HB 2888 Stopping Animal Abuse Quickly

House Bill 2888 adds animal abuse or neglect to an existing legal process by which neighbors can seek a court order to stop a nuisance (such as prostitution, gambling, or drug activity) at a nearby property. By adding animal abuse to this law, animal abuses can be more quickly identified and stopped.

HB 2205 Fighting Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

In the past few years, Oregon has built better public awareness of commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC), given prosecutors better tools to hold offenders accountable, and invested in services and resources to support those who have been victimized. House Bill 2205 establishes a Fund to End Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and creates a related advisory committee in the Oregon Department of Justice's Crime Victims Services Division, creating a means to receive and distribute funding to support and coordinate the many multidisciplinary efforts in Oregon to end CSEC.

HB 2225 & HB 2226 Holding Criminal Elder Abusers Accountable

House Bills 2225 and 2226 ensure that people who take advantage of or steal from elders are held accountable. HB 2225 provides greater flexibility for investigation of financial crimes against seniors by broadening the jurisdiction of a search warrant issued for this purpose. HB 2226 ensures that a person who steals from a senior citizen does not avoid paying restitution simply because the person they stole from has died.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Public Safety & Justice (*continued*)

HB 2270 Planning for Oregon's Resiliency for Natural Disasters

House Bill 2270 creates the office of the State Resilience Officer seated in the Governor's office to direct and deliver on the state's seismic safety and resilience goals. This new office will help improve the state-level and community-specific capacity to respond to earthquakes and other natural hazards and threats.

HB 2339 Protecting Crime Victims' Rights

In Oregon, crime victims have a right to be present during a trial—a right which is less meaningful when a victim cannot understand the proceedings because of barriers related to language or disability. House Bill 2339 requires courts to appoint an interpreter, and/or provide an appropriate assistive communication device at no cost, when a crime victim needs one.

HB 2356 Increased Penalties for Invading Privacy

House Bill 2356 creates increased penalties for a second conviction of invasion of privacy or for making a recording or photo of another person in a state of nudity for sexual gratification. This activity is currently a misdemeanor and is upgraded to a felony with passage of this bill.

HB 2478 Gender-Neutral Statutes Related to Marriage

In response to the 2014 court decision in *Geiger v. Kitzhaber*, which allowed same-sex marriage, House Bill 2478 makes statutory changes to achieve gender neutral language in statutes related to marriage, including real estate and tax law. Previously, statute allowed for a narrow definition of marriage only between a man and woman.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Public Safety & Justice (*continued*)

HB 2694 Protecting Social Workers who Report Animal Abuse

A social worker's job often places them in close proximity to a client, their family, and sometimes, their pets. House Bill 2694 allows a Department of Human Services social worker to report suspected animal abuse and neglect, without fear of liability or retaliation, when they witness something of concern in the regular course of their work. Without this allowance, social workers could be held criminally or civilly liable for making such a report, even if acting in their professional capacity.

HB 2936 Safe Substance Abuse Treatment Options

Under current law, Oregon's law enforcement personnel are allowed to take a publicly intoxicated person to their home, or to a treatment facility that meets certain standards. Many small jurisdictions do not have a qualifying treatment facility, leaving acutely intoxicated persons with few safe alternatives to detoxify. House Bill 2936 defines less-comprehensive "sobering facilities", and extends similar civil and criminal immunity to them as exists for treatment facilities. The Oregon Health Authority will track registered sobering facilities, and ensure their alignment with best practices. This bill will improve access to safe detox in rural Oregon, reduce the burden on hospital emergency departments, and give local law enforcement better tools to support individuals struggling with substance abuse.

HB 3143 Stopping Human Trafficking

Oregon has taken major steps to eliminate human trafficking through investment in enforcement, intervention, and accountability for offenders, and support services for victims. Reaching victims safely to offer support and information can be challenging and, in 2010, the Legislature passed a measure to allow nonprofit organizations to provide informational materials to the Oregon Liquor Control Commission which they could then provide licensees—for example flyers, cards, and stickers with hotline numbers or other resources. House Bill 3143 expands this effort, helping ensure that victims get greater information and support.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Public Safety & Justice (*continued*)

HB 3206 Post-Conviction DNA Testing

Oregon's prior law allowing post-conviction DNA testing was very restrictive and has been seldom used to challenge a conviction. House Bill 3206 broadens this statute to allow any person convicted of aggravated murder or felony with relevant DNA evidence to file for DNA testing to challenge their conviction.

HB 3469 Increased Penalty for Strangulation of Pregnant Victim

House Bill 3469 increases the penalty for strangulation if the person knew their victim was pregnant. If convicted of committing the crime with that knowledge, the person now faces a maximum penalty of up to five years imprisonment, a \$125,000 fine or both (Class C Felony). The bill ensures consistency for judges and attorneys when considering charges in cases of intimate partner violence.

HB 3503 Family Sentencing Alternative Pilot Program

House Bill 3503 creates the Family Sentencing Alternative Pilot Program (FSAP), which is expected to be implemented in Deschutes, Jackson, Marion, Multnomah, and Washington State counties. The FSAP, modeled after a similar successful program in Washington State, would allow qualified offenders who are also parents to participate in a diversion program rather than incarceration. The aim of the diversion program is to allow children to maintain a relationship with their parent, while a family receives intensive wrap-around services like parenting classes, drug and alcohol treatment, employment skills, and behavioral health care. This approach is good for families, for their communities, and is evidenced to save costs in both the short- and the long-term.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Marijuana & Effectively Implementing Measure 91

HB 3400 Regulating Retail Marijuana, Keeping Medical Marijuana Available for Patients

House Bill 3400 enacts important changes to Measure 91, approved by voters in 2014, to ensure effective and safe implementation of legal retail marijuana in Oregon. To ensure that retail marijuana will succeed, tighter control of the supply of medical marijuana was needed, while maintaining access to medicine for existing patients. For the first time, HB 3400 requires medical marijuana growers to track their supply and follow plant limits; requires medical marijuana processors to be licensed; and establishes standards and licensing requirements for product testing labs. Marijuana growers, processors, and retailers selling retail marijuana will also have to be licensed. Both medical and retail marijuana must adhere to product testing, labelling, and safety requirements designed to inform the consumer and keep the product from appearing attractive to minors. HB 3400 allows cities and counties limited authority to regulate marijuana activities, and allows them to impose a tax of up to three percent on retail marijuana items. HB 3400 also establishes a system for certifying cannabis researchers, creates a task force on the environmental best practices for widespread marijuana cultivation, and provides the Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Liquor Control Commission authority to inspect premises and enforce Oregon's marijuana laws.

SB 844 Cannabis Research; Organizations as Caregivers, Expunction of Marijuana Offenses

Senate Bill 844 will allow a person under 21 who has committed a marijuana-related offense to have that conviction expunged if they completed the terms of their offense, have not committed another crime, and at least one year has passed from the date of their original conviction. To allow for robust private and university research on the medical properties of marijuana, which has not been previously possible due to the legal status of marijuana, Senate Bill 844 also creates a task force to investigate and report to the legislature on the need for and barriers to cannabis medical research. Further, Senate Bill 844 allows a hospice, home health care, or residential care organization to be designated as an additional caregiver for a person under their care who is a medical marijuana cardholder, which will help patients get and take their marijuana medicine more easily and reliably. The measure also stipulates that a hospital cannot refuse a cardholder an organ transplant solely on the basis of their cardholder status.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Effectively Implementing Measure 91 (*continued*)

HB 2041 Marijuana Taxation

House Bill 2041 modifies the tax on retail marijuana imposed by Measure 91 to a lower effective tax rate but a broader tax base. While Measure 91 only taxed a few marijuana items at a flat level, House Bill 2041 imposes a point of sale tax of 17 percent of retail price on all marijuana items sold for retail. Licensed marijuana retailers must submit a tax return quarterly to the Department of Revenue. With limited marijuana sales starting October 1, 2015 (see SB 460 below), a 25 percent tax will be imposed starting January 4, 2016, collected by dispensaries selling marijuana for retail sale, until December 31, 2016.

SB 460 Starting Marijuana Sales to General Public October 1, 2015

Since retail marijuana sales will not begin until retailers are licensed by the OLCC in mid-2016, Senate Bill 460 allows medical marijuana dispensaries to sell to otherwise eligible adults over 21 who are not medical marijuana cardholders, starting October 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2016. Only a limited marijuana product may be sold under this model, limited to one quarter ounce of dried flowers or leaves and up to four units of seeds or non-flowering plants, per person, per day. SB 460 allows a city or county to prohibit retail sale at dispensaries in its borders.

SJM 12 Urging Congress to Allow Banking for Marijuana Businesses

Growing, processing, and distributing marijuana is no longer a crime under Oregon law but remains a federal crime. This creates problems for marijuana businesses seeking financial services, since federal law requires financial institutions to report when they are aware that a client is depositing funds derived from illegal activity. As a result, no Oregon financial institution is willing to knowingly serve a marijuana business. Marijuana is also classified as a Schedule 1 drug under the federal Controlled Substances Act. As such, there are significant prohibitions on research of marijuana. Senate Joint Memorial 12 urges Congress to develop solutions relating to this lack of financial services for marijuana businesses and to declassify marijuana as a Schedule 1 drug.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Seniors

SB 307 Respecting Patient Choice in Continuing Care Communities

Residents in continuing care retirement communities (CCRC) often need assistance with activities of daily living, including personal care such as toileting, bathing, dressing, and personal hygiene. Senate Bill 307 requires CCRCs to respect a resident's request to have a same-gender caregiver provide these personal services, whenever possible, and details a grievance process for a facility's failure to comply.

SB 505 Protecting Oregon's Seniors from the Flu

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that adults 65 years of age and older are at higher risk for flu-related complications than other populations, and recommends flu vaccines to this age group. The Oregon Health Authority reports that Oregon's flu vaccination rate for this population falls short of national targets. To bring Oregon closer to annual recommended flu immunization rates, Senate Bill 505 requires all hospitals, between October and March 1, to offer a flu shot to patients 65 and older.

SB 622 Mandatory Reporting of Abuse

Senate Bill 622 adds personal support workers and home care workers to list of mandatory reporters of abuse of children, elderly persons and other vulnerable persons.

HB 2225 & HB 2226 Holding Criminal Elder Abusers Accountable

House Bills 2225 and 2226 ensure that people who take advantage of or steal from elders are held accountable. HB 2225 provides greater flexibility for investigation of financial crimes against seniors by broadening the jurisdiction of a search warrant issued for this purpose. HB 2226 ensures that a person who steals from a senior citizen does not avoid paying restitution simply because the person they stole from has died.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Seniors (*continued*)

HB 2228 Improving Background Checks for Care Workers

House Bill 2228 came from the work of the Elder Abuse Task Force. The bill enhances the criminal background check process for care workers by establishing a voluntary “Rap Back” system—an opt-in fingerprint retention system that allows the state to keep an employee’s fingerprint record on file, rather than requiring a new background check every time an employer needs an update, or when an employee transfers or seeks a new job. This will save employers, employees and the state time and money by eliminating the need for repeated and redundant background checks, and will allow providers to better protect vulnerable Oregonians.

HB 2578 Telecommunications Contract Termination

House Bill 2578 allows a terminally ill patient, or a designee acting on behalf of a hospice patient or someone who has passed away, to terminate service with a telecommunications company without penalty. This bill stems from the frustrating experiences of some Oregonians—terminally ill patients and their next-of-kin—who have struggled with steep costs and time-consuming processes to terminate phone and cable service for ill and dying customers. These individuals and caretakers shouldn’t have to deal with these kinds of challenges during a trying time in their lives, and HB 2578 helps reduce this undue burden.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Veterans

SB 946 First-in-Nation LGBT Veterans Coordinator

Current law generally bars persons who have been dishonorably discharged from military service from receiving a variety of federal and state benefits. Historically, under the armed forces “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” policy, servicemembers have been dishonorably discharged based solely on sexual orientation. This policy was abolished in 2011, but many veterans’ discharge status has not been changed, despite the end of the policy. It’s estimated that as many as 15,000 veterans in Oregon could potentially fall into this category and, as a result, are denied benefits that they may otherwise have earned. Senate Bill 946 rights this injustice for Oregon’s veterans, and creates the position of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Coordinator at the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs. This staff member will be tasked with conducting outreach, assisting veterans in seeking review and appeal of their discharge status, and helping them file access other benefits that may be available.

SB 89 Local Assistance for Veterans

Many local communities in Oregon rely on volunteers who assist and advocate for veterans. This valuable volunteer service is offered differently from one locality to the next, sometimes in conjunction with County Veterans Service Officers. Senate Bill 89 allows counties and the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs to appoint qualified, vetted volunteers to provide specified support services. This bill will improve supports for veterans across the state, especially in rural Oregon.

SB 253 Confidentiality for Veterans

Senate Bill 253 allows veterans, active-duty, reserve and national guard members of the armed forces to be exempt from having certain personally identifiable and contact information subject to public records requests. The bill will assist the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs in protecting the information of people accessing their services, helping to foster trust between veterans and the department.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Veterans (*continued*)

HB 2539 Study on Health Services for Women Veterans

In 2009, the Legislature passed a bill to form the Task Force on Women Veterans Health Care to study the health care needs of female veterans, including but not limited to mental health, inpatient treatment, appropriate care within state and federal systems, and identifying gaps in services key to successfully treating female veterans. The task force submitted their findings in October of 2010. House Bill 2539 builds on their work, and directs the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs to contract for a statewide study on what kinds of medical services are available to women veterans, where, how, and when women use them, and the barriers to access across the state. The study will include recommendations for legislative changes to improve the system, and must be submitted to the Legislature by November 1, 2016.

HB 3479 An Oregon Women Veterans Coordinator

Women are the fastest-growing military population, with 28,483 self-identified women veterans currently in Oregon. In the next 30 years, women are expected to make up almost one-fifth of the veteran population in the U.S. Despite this growing population of veterans, women veterans access VA benefits at a much lower rate than their male counterparts. To address this issue, House Bill 3479 creates the position of a Women Veterans Coordinator in the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA). This position within the ODVA will help women veterans and their families apply for and access benefits they are entitled to, create and distribute information targeted for women veterans and their families, and help women veterans through the appeals process if a denial of benefits occurs.

SB 494 Helping Deployed Servicemembers Keep Valid ID

Current law in Oregon requires a valid photograph for renewals or replacements of an Oregon Driver's License, with only two exceptions for facial disfigurement and religious objection. Senate Bill 494 adds a third exception, for servicemembers stationed outside of Oregon while serving in the Armed Forces. Some servicemembers have reported difficulty with renewing their license while deployed, if a photo on file with the State is too old to be considered valid. This bill will allow servicemembers to maintain valid home state identification, even when they are not able to renew or replace a license in person in Oregon.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Veterans (*continued*)

HB 2230 Connecting Veterans to Services

Of the more than 300,000 veterans living in Oregon, there are an estimated 100,000 who don't receive benefits, but could be eligible if they could be identified and contacted. Over the past three years, the Legislature has worked hard to streamline information sharing across state agencies to better serve veterans, building a "no wrong door" system to improve veterans' access to benefits. House Bill 2230 expands this policy further, by requiring the Oregon Health Authority to ask about the veteran status of individuals seeking services and, with their permission, sharing their contact information with the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs.

HB 2645 Supporting Veterans in Higher Education

House Bill 2645 requires Oregon's public universities, and allows community colleges, to give eligible service members and their dependents enrollment priority over other students. Many eligible veterans receive Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits which help cover the cost of tuition for 36 months and provide a housing stipend for enrolled students. HB 2645 will help ensure that veterans can get the most from the benefits available to them by increasing opportunities to participate in higher education.

HB 2670 In-State Tuition for Humanitarian Volunteers, Service Members

House Bill 2670 extends in-state tuition rates to students who have left Oregon for a period of time to serve—whether military service or service with humanitarian aid organizations like Doctors Without Borders or the Peace Corps. Some students struggle to meet residency requirements after relocating from Oregon for a service-related purpose, and the inability to receive in-state tuition may deter these individuals from pursuing higher education in the state. HB 2670 supports these students who have returned to Oregon within five years of serving, and haven't established residency elsewhere.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Veterans (*continued*)

HB 2763 Military Families' Pay Equity

Currently, public employees are entitled to a leave of absence for periods of active duty. However, state law requires that such leaves must be provided without pay, even though active duty pay may be substantially lower than public employee pay. House Bill 2763 removes the prohibition on compensating these employees, and will allow public employers to make up the difference in pay for workers—like firefighters, police officers, and sheriffs across Oregon—so they can continue to support themselves and their families financially while serving a period of active duty.

HB 3303 Supporting Businesses Run by Injured Veterans

Oregon already certifies businesses as Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE), Minority/Women Business Enterprise (MWBE) and Emerging Small Business (ESB) and provides special contracting advantages to those types of businesses. House Bill 3303 adds service-injured veteran owned businesses to this program, supporting businesses run by veterans who have served and sacrificed.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Transportation & Infrastructure

HB 5005, HB 5030, & HB 5040 Transportation Investments

These measures fund important transportation needs around Oregon, including \$45 million to upgrade rail, air, marine, and other transportation infrastructure; \$10 million to continue Amtrak service in the Willamette Valley; and \$35 million for some of the most urgent highway safety upgrades around the state.

SB 306 Inspecting & Repairing Critical Levees

Many flood control levees in Oregon need inspection and repairs, and must be certified under the National Flood Insurance Program to maintain affordable flood insurance for area property owners. Senate Bill 306 addresses this issue by allowing existing public works funds to be used for levee inspection and repair. The Legislature also dedicated \$5 million for this use.

SB 921 Fritz-Fairchild Act for Highway Cable Barriers

Senate Bill 921 directs the Oregon Department of Transportation to complete installation of lifesaving median barriers on interstate highways where the space between opposing lanes of traffic measures 100 feet or less. The measure is known as the Fritz-Fairchild Act in memory of Dr. Steven Fritz and Cary Fairchild, both employees of the Oregon State Hospital in Salem, who were killed in a cross-over crash while commuting to work on September 24, 2014.

SB 533 Safe Passage on Red Lights for Bicyclists

Allows a motorcyclist or bicyclist to proceed through an intersection if they wait one full cycle and the stop light does not detect their presence and turn green.

HB 2274 Connect Oregon Transportation Investments

The Legislature restructured and allocated \$45 million to the Connect Oregon program, which provides grants to help fund projects related to rail, marine, aviation, transit, bicycle, and bridge infrastructure. House Bill 2274 contains safeguards against conflicts of interest in project selection and requires that projects funded by Connect Oregon have a useful life with a substantial benefit to the state.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Transportation & Infrastructure (*continued*)

HB 2621 Photo Radar Cameras to Reduce Deadly Crashes in Portland

House Bill 2621 authorizes the City of Portland to operate fixed photo radar to enforce speed limits on especially dangerous high crash corridors. Installing photo radar units will help minimize dangerous car crashes and pedestrian and bicyclist deaths.

HB 3225 Disaster Response for Oil Trains

House Bill 3225 addresses the need for emergency preparedness in the event that a freight train spills oil or other hazardous material while moving through a populated area. The bill directs the State Fire Marshal to adopt a plan for a coordinated response to oil or hazardous material spills.

HB 3402 Highway Speed in Rural Oregon

House Bill 3402 increases the speed limit to 70 miles per hour for most vehicles (65 miles per hour for heavy vehicles) on certain stretches of highway in areas of rural Oregon.

HB 3035 School Zone Road Safety

If a school has a parking lot across the street from a school and the street has a speed limit under 45 miles per hour, House Bill 3035 allows the school to use a flashing light to caution the traffic of the school zone between 7:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Government Accountability

SB 1 Fixing Oregon's Health Exchange

Senate Bill 1 improves accountability and oversight for Oregon's health insurance exchange, known previously as Cover Oregon. The bill dissolves Cover Oregon and transfers the functions of Oregon's exchange to the Department of Consumer and Business Services, a move that tightens contracting, personnel, and financial management requirements for the exchange. This important step will help ensure that individuals and families can get the coverage they need, and that Oregon businesses can offer quality, affordable health care plans.

SB 9, HB 2019, and HB 2020 Ethics Reforms

This series of ethics and public records reforms subjects the Governor's spouse or partner to Oregon's public official ethics laws, makes important changes to modernize the Oregon Government Ethics Commission, and orders an audit of how state agencies handle public records requests.

HB 2177 Universal Voter Registration

First in the nation legislation to dramatically expand access to elections, House Bill 2177 will make voter registration simpler, more convenient, and more secure by using the data that the DMV currently collects for drivers' licenses to automatically register Oregonians to vote unless they opt out. This modernized process will provide simple and accurate voter registration to eligible voters and will update address information for people who have already registered.

SB 7 Oversight and Accountability for IT Projects

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) is responsible for supervising procurement of information technology projects, however, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is currently exempt from this requirement. Senate Bill 7 will remove this exemption and require DAS to directly procure or supervise procurement of IT goods and services for OHA. Requiring OHA to contract under the Public Contracting Code, and under the supervision of DAS, will ensure more oversight and accountability.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Government Accountability (*continued*)

SB 129 Using Revenue Efficiently to Fund Key Services - Gain Share Reform

Senate Bill 129 reforms a state and local government revenue sharing program commonly known as Gain Share, which splits tax revenue from the Strategic Investment Program. This measure caps the share of tax revenue a single county can receive and changes the way jobs related to an economic development project are counted. These changes mean tax revenues will be more equitably shared to provide state services around Oregon.

SB 225 Department of Human Services Efficiency

The Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) are required to send notice of benefits changes to certain program recipients by mail in advance of changes. In cases of large-scale program changes that impact benefits levels—such as a government shutdown like that of 2013—there is substantial cost, and often undue confusion, involved in this type of notification. Senate Bill 225 allows DHS and OHA to notify recipients of benefits closures or suspensions through news media, websites, and general mailings to recipients' households, rather than individual mailings.

SB 966 Training for Public Officials

Senate Bill 966 requires the Oregon Department of Administrative Services to develop a training program covering ethics laws; public records and public meetings laws; and effective management for members, administrators, or directors of Oregon's many boards and commissions.

HB 2173 Reporting Fraud with Public Funds

House Bill 2173 assures that when the Secretary of State is conducting an audit of a state agency, local government, public funds, or other entity, and suspects fraud or violation of the law, the Secretary of State's office will report the suspected violation to the appropriate law enforcement.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Government Accountability (*continued*)

HB 2178 Campaign Finance Reform Task Force

House Bill 2178 establishes the Task Force on Campaign Finance Reform to conduct an analysis and determine the best method to address campaign finance reforms in Oregon. The task force will be led by the Secretary of State and will include members from major and minor parties to consider options for campaign finance reform for future legislative sessions.

HB 2219 Streamlining Applications for Human Services

Our state delivers a wide range of services for Oregonians in need. Despite overlap in many of these programs—cash assistance, housing, education services, health care, food benefits, etc.—applications for services often stand alone, leading to duplication, wasted paper, and wasted time for agencies and individuals. House Bill 2219 will convene a work group of several human services agencies to examine consolidating applications for services.

HB 2375 Standardizing and Simplifying State Contracting

To ensure state contracts are using taxpayer dollars efficiently, House Bill 2375 will standardize state agency contract forms and ensure that personnel overseeing the contract are trained and experienced in contract management.

HB 2394 Public Benefits Eligibility

In response to a 2013 audit conducted by the Oregon Secretary of State, a Public Assistance Program Integrity Workgroup was formed and met from 2013-2014, with the goal of ensuring that state and federal resources used to fund public assistance programs are provided to recipients accurately, and are appropriately redeemed by merchants. House Bill 2394—which stems from one of the workgroup's recommendations—requires the Oregon State Lottery to notify the Department of Human Services within seven days when they award a prize of \$1,200 or more. Receiving lottery prize money can affect a person's eligibility to receive certain government assistance, and this bill ensures that benefits are disbursed accurately, based on eligibility rules.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Government Accountability (*continued*)

HB 2442 Oregon Housing Stability Council

In 2012, the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department (OHCS) was charged with examining its governance, service delivery, and community partnership model. OHCS spent more than a year completing this task, and House Bill 2442 reflects much of this transition work by consolidating several commissions and task forces and centralizing their responsibilities within a new Oregon Housing Stability Council. This move directs the Council to renew focus its on policies to aid low-income families and address geographic and racial disparities in housing, and the reorganization promises to streamline and maximize the agency's overall efficiency.

HB 2974 Public Hearings for Redistricting

Congressional and Legislative districts are redrawn every ten years in response to population changes based on the US Census. House Bill 2974 puts current practice into law by requiring the Legislature to hold ten public hearings throughout the state prior to proposing a redistricting plan, which will allow communities to have input on how their representation is structured.

HB 3099 State Communications Efficiency

House Bill 3099 consolidates technology and telecommunications functions with the State Chief Information Officer in an effort to increase data security and government efficiency. In transferring responsibility for certain data to the Oregon Information Officer, important data can be kept more private and secure.

HB 3371 Student Whistleblower Protections

House Bill 3371 creates a whistleblower protection for students, similar to what already exists for most employees, by prohibiting retaliation against a student who makes a good faith report of a possible violation of state or federal law.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Balanced Budget

During the 2015 session, Senate Democrats authorized substantial investments in education, job creation, and essential services for the most vulnerable while producing a balanced state budget in line with Oregonians' priorities.

Highlights of the 2015-2017 budget plan:

Education

- \$7.4 billion for K-12 schools, an increase of \$800 million over the previous biennium
- Included funding to completely implement Full-Day Kindergarten across Oregon
- \$35 million for Career and Technical Education and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math education (CTE/STEM)
- Targeted Early Learning investments to get kids prepared for success in school and life
- Targeted investments to help school districts improve programs for English Language Learner students
- Funding for school districts to expand their free lunch program to serve more students from low-income families
- \$10 million for the 'Oregon Promise': a tuition waiver program to put community college within reach of more young students
- Investments in Oregon's statewide and regional universities to make tuition more affordable
- \$125 million to help local districts make repairs to old, crumbling school buildings

Economic Development & Transportation

- \$45 million in new funds for Connect Oregon VI, a multi-modal transportation funding package
- \$35 million in targeted highway safety improvements across the state
- \$7 million to help local governments convert and revitalize brownfields into development-ready lots
- \$2.5 million for the Main Street Revitalization Grant Program
- \$7.5 million for the Willamette Falls Riverwalk and interpretive project
- Continued support of Amtrak Cascades passenger rail service
- Significant funding for capital repair and construction of college and university buildings throughout Oregon

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2015 Session Accomplishments

Balanced Budget (*continued*)

Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness

- \$175 million for seismic safety upgrades to local schools
- Funding for Gang Enforcement Teams
- Funding for Courthouse repairs and replacements in Multnomah, Tillamook, and Jefferson Counties
- Funding for cable barriers throughout the Oregon portions of Interstates 5 and 84 to prevent head-on collisions

Helping Vulnerable Oregonians

- \$20 million to build supportive housing for Oregonians struggling with addiction and/or mental illness
- \$40 million investment in affordable housing construction
- Strategic investments in the Employment Related Day Care Program and the Working Family Child and Dependent Care tax credit to increase access to quality, affordable childcare for working families
- Renewed the hospital and long-term care self-assessments, ensuring stable funding for health care and supporting tens of thousands of Oregon jobs

Revitalizing Rural Oregon

- \$25 million for the Oregon State University Marine Sciences Campus
- \$30 million for the OSU Forest Science Complex to bring cutting-edge technology to Oregon's wood products industry
- \$50 million in grant and loan funds for water storage and conservation projects
- \$10 million to upgrade the Coos Bay Rail Line
- Funding for Sage Grouse Habitat Restoration in Eastern Oregon

Savings & Resources

- Provides the Emergency Board, the interim legislative budget committee, with \$30 million in general appropriations to respond to budget needs and make adjustments while the Legislature is not in session
- Closed the 'Conway' loophole to ensure that all corporations pay at least the minimum corporate tax rate
- Savings from several tax credits that will expire as a result of passage of HB 2171