



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Making Life Better in Oregon Drove Lawmaking by Senate Democrats in 2025 Legislative Session

Bills passed ease pressure on family budgets, expand access to health care, bolster public safety, and defend Oregon values

SALEM, OR – The 2025 legislative session concluded today after more than five months of fighting for Oregonians. Legislation championed by Oregon Senate Democrats this session eases the cost of living, increases access to health care, improves public safety, and defends individual rights.

The Democratic caucus worked with extra urgency against the backdrop of a federal administration violating individual rights, refusing to defend workers, and shirking responsibilities to protect consumers.

“We required utility companies to slow down their rate hikes, and we made it easier for developers to increase the housing supply—the key to improving affordability for everyone,” said **Senate Majority Leader Kayse Jama (D – East Portland, Boring & Damascus)**. “We also invested to recruit and retain more mental health professionals in the workforce, and we outlawed devices like bump stocks, which are used in America’s deadliest mass shootings.”

Oregonians also deserve safe and reliable roads and bridges to keep the economy moving and our communities connected. Oregon Republicans refused to invest in transportation, remaining lock-step against a transportation bill developed in an 18-month-long bipartisan process.

“Instead of stepping up, Senate Republicans chose to follow national MAGA trends aimed at dismantling government itself. By rejecting House Bill 2025, they’ve left Oregonians vulnerable to unsafe roads and aging infrastructure,” observed **Senator Jama**.

“That choice puts real costs on you: damaged cars, long waits for buses, and more danger on the road,” he continued. “We could have solved this together. Instead, they became a roadblock.”

Among the successful legislation championed by Senate Democrats were measures to:

Rein in costs of living. Senate Democrats:

- Stopped massive energy users, like data centers, from shifting electrical costs to consumers like you (HB 3546)
- Widened access to consumer assistance services at utilities (HB 3156)
- Required utility companies to slow down their rate hikes (HB 3179), show good performance along with any rate increases (SB 688), and double the amount of assistance for people struggling to pay their bills (HB 3792)
- Pushed medical debt off credit reports (SB 605)
- Outlawed surprise fees in online prices (SB 430)
- Invested in affordable summer learning programs (HB 2007)
- Invested in rental assistance and down payment assistance (HB 5011)
- Extended a tax benefit to save for a down payment (HB 2087)
- Stabilized rent in mobile home parks at 6 percent a year (HB 3054)
- Strengthened protections for renters to get deposits back (HB 3521)
- Made it easier for developers to increase the housing supply—the key to improving housing affordability for everyone (SB 684, SB 974, HB 3144, HB 2138)
- Demanded accountability when construction workers serve on a project but don't get paid (SB 426)
- Leveled the playing field for workers negotiating with management during a strike (SB 916)

Increase access to health care. Senate Democrats:

- Protected patients from profit-hungry investors (SB 951)
- Invested to recruit and retain more mental health professionals in the workforce (HB 2024)
- Helped free up the availability of doctors, voiding noncompete agreements that keep them idle after leaving a previous practice (HB 3410)
- Helped increase the medical workforce with licensing options for internationally trained health care providers (SB 476)

Improve public safety. Senate Democrats:

- Outlawed devices like bump stocks, which are used in America's deadliest mass shootings (SB 243)
- Made assault a more serious offense when it happens on the job (SB 170)
- Closed a loophole in sentencing in domestic violence cases (HB 2975)
- Funded mediation in family court, proven to lower stress and trauma for children involved in disputes (SB 97)
- Required judges get training on abuse dynamics and learn to handle sexual assault cases with sensitivity (SB 710)
- Strengthened the program that prevents crashes between cars and wildlife (HB 2978)

- Promoted communities working together to lower hazards of wildfire (SB 85)
- Invested in wildfire risk reduction, preparedness, and landscape resilience (HB 3940)

Defend rights and freedoms. Senate Democrats:

- Protected against age discrimination at work (HB 3187)
- Kept immigration status off rental applications (SB 599)
- Prevented political extremists from interfering with Oregonians' right to read (SB 1098)
- Stopped businesses from selling data you want to keep private (HB 2008 and HB 3875)
- Clarified it is not a crime to alert people about their rights (SB 1191)

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