

Office of Senator Deb Patterson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Protections for Workers in Hazardous Conditions Approved with Bipartisan Support

Senate Bill 907 prohibits employers from discriminating against employees or prospective employees who refuse to expose themselves to hazardous conditions at work that could cause serious injury or death

SALEM, Ore - Today, the Oregon Senate continued efforts to protect Oregonians at work with the bipartisan passage of <u>Senate Bill 907</u>. Sponsored by Senator Deb Patterson (D - Salem), the legislation would prohibit employers from discriminating against employees or prospective employees who refuse to expose themselves to serious injury or death from hazardous work conditions, with no reasonable alternatives and in good faith.

"No one should be punished for refusing to be hurt or killed at work. It's as simple as that," **said Senator Patterson.** "I'm glad that we came together to empower Oregonians standing up for their safety on the job."

This legislation builds on Oregon Senate Democrats' agenda to improve working conditions in the state. Senate Democrats have already led the bipartisan passage of several other workplace safety initiatives, including <u>SB 592</u> (stiffer penalties for workplace safety violations), <u>SB 851</u> (creating a model respectful workplace policy) and <u>SB 418</u> (time off for workers injured on the job).

Providing more protections for Oregon's workforce is a key pillar of Oregon Senate Democrats 2023 Oregon Works Agenda.

SB 907 now heads to the Oregon House of Representatives for consideration.

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