



## SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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### **Oregon Senate Democrats Push to Bring Down Costs for Families**

*Legislation to minimize financial hit from medical debt is the latest action to ease pressure on household budgets, empower consumers and workers*

**SALEM, OR** – Oregon Senate Democrats are siding with working families on bills moving forward in the legislature. Today they passed—without a single Senate Republican vote—a measure that keeps medical debt off credits reports.

“Having medical debt says nothing about how financially responsible you are,” said **Senator Winsvey Campos (D – Beaverton and Aloha)**, the chief sponsor of Senate Bill 605. “With this legislation, we’re making sure debt from your illness or injury doesn’t tank your chances to get a good rate on a small business loan or get a rental application approved.”

The measure is one of many this session designed to bring down the cost of living, support workers, and protect consumers.

“Our actions have extra urgency today, with our federal government hostile to fairness for working people,” said **Senate Majority Leader Kayse Jama (D – East Portland, Boring & Damascus)**. “We’re stepping into that gap here at the state level to give Oregonians a chance to get ahead.”

Senate Democrats have taken action to ease pressure on family budgets, defend the rights of consumers, and level the playing field for workers.

### **Easing Pressure on Family Budgets**

In addition to Senate Bill 605, Senate Democrats have voted to:

- Stop massive energy users, like data centers, from shifting electrical costs to consumers like you (HB 3546, passed Oregon Senate June 3)
- Prohibit utility companies from making you pay the price for their wildfire negligence; they can’t pass those costs on to you (SB 926, passed Oregon Senate April 23)
- Give a tax benefit to help save for a home’s down payment (SB 101, passed Oregon Senate March 10)

## **Defending the Rights of Consumers**

Senate Democrats have voted to:

- Stop businesses from selling data you want to keep private (HB 2008 and HB 3875, passed Oregon Senate May 21 and May 15, respectively)
- Outlaw surprise fees in prices online (SB 430, passed Oregon Senate June 3)
- Put patients ahead of profits in medical clinics (SB 951, passed Oregon Senate April 8)
- Prohibit housing discrimination based on immigration status (SB 599, passed Oregon Senate March 24)

## **Leveling the Playing Field for Workers**

Senate Democrats have voted to:

- Prevent age discrimination (HB 3187, passed Oregon Senate May 13)
- Require paystubs to clearly list and explain all deductions (SB 906, passed Oregon Senate April 10)
- Hold developers accountable when construction workers serve on a project but don't get paid (SB 426, passed Oregon Senate May 29)
- Allow unemployment benefits during labor disputes (SB 916, passed Oregon Senate March 20)

Senate Democrats will continue to act on affordability through the end of the session, which runs until June 29.

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