



OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

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Oregon State Legislature

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Senate Majority Leader Rob Wagner Statement on Adjournment of the 2021 Legislative Session

SALEM – Oregon’s 81st Legislative Assembly adjourned the 2021 Legislative Session sine die this evening. The COVID-19 public health crisis and resulting state of emergency led the Legislature to adapt in order to ensure safety while carrying out the peoples’ work and serving Oregonians across the state. Majority Leader Rob Wagner (D-Lake Oswego) made the following statement on the Oregon Senate Democrats’ accomplishments:

“What an incredible Legislative Session this has been. Oregon Senate Democrats came together and passed critical legislation to meet Oregonians’ greatest needs. I am so proud of our work.

“With the COVID-19 pandemic, an ongoing racial justice reckoning and a devastating wildfire season at the top of our minds, Senate Democrats delivered on our ambitious legislative agenda. With each piece of legislation, we centered equity and racial justice, we kept our focus on rebuilding and recovery and we passed groundbreaking legislation that will improve the lives of Oregonians all across the state.

“The Oregon Legislature expanded access to health care with numerous measures that will increase affordability and options for care. We made monumental investments in behavioral health care, which will provide lasting positive outcomes for Oregonians.

“From tenant protections, to funds for shelters, to social services and community resources, we have supported Oregon’s most vulnerable individuals. We improved public safety policy and increased fairness in our criminal justice system. In addition, we made significant progress to protect the environment and invest in a clean energy economy and a workforce equipped for the future.

“For years, Senate Democrats have worked with stakeholders on policy to take on a comprehensive approach to prevention, mitigation and response to wildfires. This robust piece of legislation ensures that we follow the science and listen to impacted communities.

“This session, the BIPOC Caucus provided fantastic insight, support and policy recommendations. We followed their lead and passed critical policing reforms and landmark gun safety legislation, which will save lives.

“Among the equity measures we advanced, a focus on our public education system was paramount. We improved diversity in the workforce and opportunities for all students and made certain our laws will serve the linguistically and culturally diverse students and families that call Oregon home.

“Additionally, we improved transparency in government and access to the ballot. We will continue to look ahead and seek out ways to improve the lives of all who live in this great state.

“Facing immense and ever-evolving challenges, the Oregon Senate Democrats came together and worked to ensure the economic vitality, environmental stability and public health of this great state. We passed legislation to provide opportunity, safety and health for all Oregonians. It is an honor to lead the Oregon Senate Democrats and I thank each of them for their work and dedication to their constituents and all Oregonians.”

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