

## OFFICE OF SENATOR CHRIS GORSEK

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Family Financial Protection Act Passes Oregon Senate**

Senate Bill 1595 improves outdated and flawed debt collection statutes

**SALEM, Ore.** — Today, the Family Financial Protection Act (Senate Bill 1595) passed the Oregon Senate with bipartisan support. The bill improves outdated and flawed consumer protection and debt statutes by strengthening economic protections for Oregonians who are working to pay back their debts and providing recourse for Oregonians subjected to unfair debt collections practices.

SB 1595 will protect Oregon families while paying off debt or fighting unfair collections by:

- Increasing the amount of wages that are protected from garnishment,
- Protecting \$2,500 in someone's bank account so they can pay for their basic needs, like rent, while paying off debt,
- Increasing protections to prevent Oregonians from losing their homes during debt collections,
- Improving protections for consumers under the Unfair Debt Collection Practices Act,
- Extending the amount of time consumers have to file a complaint to 3 years from the date of injury,
- Protecting consumers from unfair attorney fees resulting from civil lawsuits for unlawful collections practices.

"This bill ensures that Oregonians will remain in their homes and have food on their tables as they work to pay down debts that they owe. No one should have their bank accounts wiped out by debt collection efforts," said **Sen. Chris Gorsek, Chief Sponsor of Senate Bill 1595.**"SB 1595 protects Oregon families from unscrupulous debt collection efforts so they will be

able to pay down their debts over time."

SB 1595 is sponsored by a bipartisan, bicameral group of 43 legislators, including House Speaker Dan Rayfield, Senate President Rob Wagner, Republican Sen. Suzanne Weber and Republican Rep. Greg Smith.

Lowering costs for hardworking Oregonians is a key pillar of Senate Democrats' <u>Uniting Oregon Agenda</u>. The bill now goes to the Oregon House of Representatives for consideration.

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