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Oregon State Legislature State Capitol Salem, OR

NEWS RELEASE

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Senate Democrats Release 2015 Legislative Agenda

Emphasis on investing in education and creating family wage jobs

SALEM – The Oregon Senate Democrats introduced their <u>2015 Legislative Agenda</u> this morning, on the first day of regular business for the 78th Legislative Session.

"Our agenda for the 2015 session reflects the commitment of all 18 Senate Democrats to the priorities that matter to Oregonians," said Senate Majority Leader Diane Rosenbaum (D-Portland). "As our economy recovers, we are focused on maintaining our investments in critical services while fighting for working families and Oregonians who are still struggling to get by."

The Senate Democrats' 2015 Legislative Agenda focuses on five key areas:

- Investing in Education and Workforce Development
- Strengthening Oregon Businesses and Creating Family Wage Jobs
- Standing up for Rural Oregon Communities
- Fighting for Working Families and Struggling Oregonians
- Ensuring Efficient Government to Protect Critical Services

Proposals aim to protect school funding and prioritize early childhood education, make college more affordable, expand career training opportunities, invest in critical transportation infrastructure, protect Oregon's clean air and water, ensure Oregonians can access mental health services, strengthen contracting laws, and scrutinize tax credits to ensure they are reaching their intended purpose to create jobs and stimulate the economy. The Caucus Agenda Work Group, which authored the 2015 Agenda, included a diverse group of members, including Senator Rosenbaum, Senate President Peter Courtney (D-Salem/Woodburn/Gervais), Senator Michael Dembrow (D-Portland), Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward (D-Beaverton), Senator Lee Beyer (D-Springfield), and Senator Betsy Johnson (D-Scappoose).

"This agenda speaks to the concerns we're hearing from all corners of the state," said Deputy Majority Leader Arnie Roblan (D-Coos Bay). "Families want to know that their representatives in Salem are looking out for them. This agenda sets forth policies that will help us address their concerns."

The complete link to the 2015 agenda is: <u>https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/senatedemocrats/Documents/2015%20Agenda.pdf</u>

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