



## SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 24, 2026

**Contact:** Elizabeth Cronen, [elizabeth.cronen@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:elizabeth.cronen@oregonlegislature.gov)

### **Senate Votes to Make Recreation Safe, Affordable, and Insurable**

*Senate Bill 1517 balances visitor safety and operator risk*

**SALEM, OR** – Business owners across Oregon who make their livelihood providing access to recreation in our state will have new protections from liability if Senate Bill 1517, passed in Oregon Senate today, becomes law. The measure has potential to lower insurance costs for recreation businesses.

Senate Bill 1517 specifies that waivers for ordinary negligence—signed by participants in a sport, recreation, or fitness activity—can be enforced in Oregon. The legislation also allows people who operate gyms, ski areas, and other recreation activities to require that participants sign waivers releasing the businesses from any claims for damages or injuries that occur while performing the activity and that result from ordinary negligence. Without this legislation, insurers have been reluctant to issue coverage—or have charged extra-steep rates—for Oregon ski resorts and other recreation businesses due to ambiguity about the enforceability of waivers.

Waivers under the measure must disclose risks associated with the activity and they cannot release the operators from responsibility for gross negligence, reckless conduct and similar acts, or from injuries sustained in parking lots or other areas not used for the recreational activity itself. The measure includes additional exceptions.

“We found a balance in this legislation,” said **Senator Floyd Prozanski (D – Eugene & Springfield)**. “The exemptions in the bill ensure people have redress, and the Constitution in Article I, Section 10 provides that people have the right to seek redress.”

The measure passed in a vote of 16 to 13. It now moves to the Oregon House of Representatives. Oregon’s short legislative session must end by March 8 according to the state constitution.

###