



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Senate Democrats Build Momentum on Affordability, Safety, and Rights for Oregonians

Progress on 2025 agenda provides solutions to day-to-day issues

SALEM, OR – Ninety days into the 2025 legislative session, Oregon Senate Democrats have momentum on measures to ease family budgets, improve access to health care, drive down the cost of housing, and defend the rights of Oregonians. Against a backdrop of federal government dysfunction and brutality, leaders here continue to focus on making Oregon the best place to live, work, and raise a family.

“Our most important goal in the Senate is making life good for Oregonians,” said **Senate Majority Leader Kayse Jama (D – East Portland, Boring, and Damascus)**. “Halfway through this session, we’ve already covered a lot of ground: protecting health care access, investing in childhood literacy, and moving ahead on measures to increase housing production.”

Measures championed this session by Senate Democrats will ease pressure on family budgets. Bills moving forward in the Legislature:

- Keep medical debt out of credit reports (SB 605)
- Require fair pay for rideshare drivers and construction workers (SB 426, 1166)
- Level the playing field for workers negotiating with management during a strike (SB 916)

Senate Democrats are improving health and safety for Oregonians. Measures they are backing this session:

- Fund the Oregon Health Plan, health coverage for 1.4 million Oregonians (HB 2010)
- Protect patients from profit-hungry investors (SB 951)
- Free up the availability of doctors, voiding noncompete agreements (SB 957)
- Make assault a more serious offense when it happens on the job (SB 170)
- Help communities work together to lower hazards of wildfire (SB 85)

Driving down the cost of housing remains a top priority. Senate Democrats are shepherding legislation to:

- Give low-interest loans to builders developing mixed-income housing (SB 684)
- Extend a tax benefit to help save for a down payment (SB 101)

- Give financial help to renters when affordable-rent regulations expire where they live (SB 31)

Work in state government has additional urgency, with the federal government refusing to defend workers, intimidating immigrants, violating constitutional standards. Senate Democrats are defending Oregon values while the federal government abuses its power. Legislation advancing this session:

- Keeps immigration status off rental applications (SB 599)
- Prevents frivolous book bans (SB 1098)
- Reinforces free speech rights (SB 1191)

The legislative session continues through June. Major responsibilities remaining include passing the state's biennial budget and adopting transportation legislation that fixes Oregon's roads and bridges.

"Oregonians are clear with their leaders: they sent us to the Capitol to represent their values and to solve real problems," said Majority Leader Jama. "Those goals drive our work in the Senate and will continue to guide our progress up through the final gavel this summer."

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