



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Senate Democrats mourn passing of Sen. Alan Bates

Senator brought physician's perspective and deep love of Oregon to his work

SALEM – Oregon Senate Democrats are mourning the loss of friend and colleague Sen. Alan Bates (D-Medford), who passed away Friday.

“We will miss our friend and colleague, Senator Alan Bates,” Senate Majority Leader Ginny Burdick (D-Portland) said. “He was a thoughtful and even-handed leader who always brought keen perspectives from his profession as a physician, along with his deep love of the Rogue Valley and the state of Oregon. We are grateful to have been able to call him a colleague and a friend. We will miss him terribly and are deeply saddened by his loss. Our thoughts go out to his family during this trying time.”

Sen. Bates – an established primary care physician in Medford, who built and maintained a family practice for more than 30 years serving Southern Oregon – has served in the Oregon Senate since 2004, after four years in the House of Representatives.

Prior to his service in the Legislature, Sen. Bates had a long and distinguished career in public service. A Vietnam veteran, he served 10 years on the Eagle Point School Board, plus two years on the Governor’s task force on Quality in Education. In 1989, he was appointed to the state’s Health Services Commission, which was instrumental in designing and implementing the Oregon Health Plan. He was re-appointed by two different governors and chaired that commission for three years, before resigning to run for public office.

Coming from a working class family, Sen. Bates always knew what it was to work hard and the struggles that families can face to make ends meet. A commitment to service was evident in his

professional, legislative and personal life. Over the past decade, he had become respected for his policy and leadership on health care, education, the environment and the state's budget. He developed a strong reputation for being able to bring opposing sides together, an important function in keeping the Legislature moving forward.

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