

## OREGON SENATE REPUBLICANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 10, 2015

Contact: Caitie Osborne

[\(503\) 986-1955](tel:5039861955)

[\(503\) 680-6944](tel:5036806944)

### **Senate Democrats Restrict Religious Freedom of Minorities and Immigrants**

Salem, OR - Today, SJR 12 failed on a party-line vote in the Oregon Senate. The bill would reduce liability insurance premiums for religious charities, enabling them to funnel more of their resources back into Oregon communities.

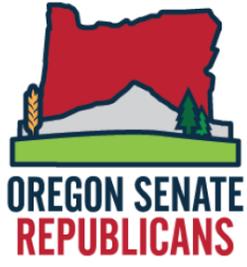
"We believe religious charities play a crucial role in providing valuable critical services in Oregon," said Senator Fred Girod (R-Stayton). "Instead of placing more burdens on charities that make it costly and inefficient to operate, we should be seeking ways for small and minority religious charities to better serve their communities."

Instead, Democrats in the Senate passed SB 77, which will restrict the rights of small and minority religious organizations by making it more difficult for them to operate. Additional regulations found in SB 77 create hurdles for new smaller religious charities and organizations, putting them at a disadvantage relative to larger established religious organizations.

While mainstream churches are grandfathered in, new churches, mosques, temples, synagogues, and parishes could be adversely affected. This would harm minority, immigrant and rural communities in Oregon.

"If we're concerned about fraud in our religious charities, we should pass a bill to combat illegal activities by those organizations," explained Senator Girod. "SB 77 simply restricts religious freedom, one of our most treasured constitutional rights. Oregon has always welcomed immigrants of minority faiths with open arms, and this slams the door in their face."

###



[www.oregonlegislature.gov/senaterepublicans](http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/senaterepublicans)

[facebook.com/ORSenateRepublicans](https://facebook.com/ORSenateRepublicans)

@ORSenateGOP