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Republicans to Force Corruption, Transparency Bills to Senate Floor

Governor Brown's Pledge to Strengthen Ethics in Oregon Fails One Year after Resignation of Disgraced Former Governor Kitzhaber

Salem, Ore. - Senate Republicans will pull legislation to the Senate floor Monday to combat pervasive corruption in Oregon's government and prevent campaign kickbacks.

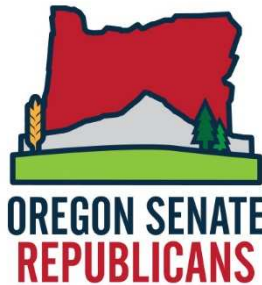
"The result of years of one-party rule and control of both legislative chambers by Democrats: a say one thing, do another approach to governing with transparency and accountability, has led to an abuse in power," said Senate Republican Leader Ted Ferrioli (R-John Day). "Senate Republicans are demanding real reform so Oregonians no longer suffer from actions by the majority party that result in corrupt agencies, campaign kickbacks totaling hundreds of thousands of dollars, and a reputation for graft and corruption after the resignation of our former governor."

In the past year, numerous state agencies have taken heat for closed-door deals and unethical practices, including influence peddling in the former Governor's office, a fraudulent foster care system with poor oversight from DHS, and illegal discount rates on energy credits to "sweetheart" investors made by the Department of Energy. The majority party has failed to hold state government accountable for their actions.

On Monday, Senate Republicans will force a vote on legislation to curb the pervasive corruption in Oregon state government, that will outlaw any elected official from receiving a campaign contribution following the negotiation of a pay raise for any entity, including public employee unions.

"Governor Brown received a \$100,000 campaign contribution - the largest of her career - from AFSCME, one of the state's largest public employee unions, shortly after negotiating a 5% pay raise for state employees," explained Ferrioli. "This kind of 'quid pro quo' corruption is unacceptable to Oregonians who value strong ethics and transparency with the public. By outlawing such corruption, Oregonians can rest assured their elected officials are making decisions based on public's best interest, not their campaigns."

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