



from the office of

SENATOR JACKIE WINTERS

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Senate Votes to Increase Public Employee Whistleblower Protections

SALEM, Ore. - Today, the Oregon State Senate voted to increase whistleblower protections for public employees. [Senate Bill 1559](#) requires the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) to develop a manual regarding whistleblower procedures and protections. Additionally, the Oregon Health Authority and the Departments of Transportation, Human Services, and Environmental Quality are required to have a pilot program allowing anonymous whistleblower reporting.

"This is an important first step towards building a better and more accountable process for whistleblowers in Oregon," said Senator Jackie Winters (R-Salem), who is the chief sponsor of the bill.

"Public employees should know how to speak up when they need to, and should be able to speak up without fear of retaliation. I look forward to continuing the work on this important issue."

Winters was moved to draft the legislation after recent reports of how whistleblowers were being treated in the state. Oregon law already prohibits employers from retaliating against employees who report in good faith, however there is no manual available for public employees to know their rights.

The bill will now go to the House for further consideration.

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