



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Senate Republicans Protect Oregonians from Harmful, Expensive Mandates

Salem, Ore. - Following the adjournment of the 2016 February legislative session, Senate Republicans highlighted several new, expensive mandates they were able to stop from becoming law. The bills, introduced by Democrats, would have increased property taxes, endangered domestic violence victims, empowered human traffickers, forced banks to make bad loans, raised costs for consumers and expanded Oregon's already \$20 billion-plus PERS liability.

"Despite being outnumbered 18 to 12, Senate Republicans fought to protect Oregonians from a wide array of harmful, expensive new mandates proposed by Democrats during the 32-day short session," said Senate Republican Leader Ted Ferrioli (R-John Day). "Stopping these bills was a victory for working families, small businesses, and vulnerable Oregonians."

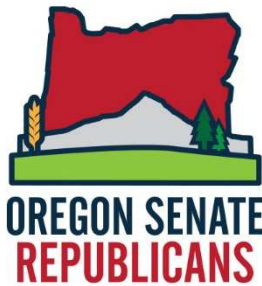
The following bills were introduced by Democrat legislators and stopped by Senate Republicans through bipartisan negotiations:

- **Higher Property Taxes for Oregon Taxpayers:** SJR 202 would have increased property taxes on homeowners by changing how home values are assessed; SB 1510 would have allowed Tri-Met to raise property taxes to resurrect the Columbia River Crossing boondoggle.

- **Restricting Second Amendment Rights:** HB 4147 would have extended the waiting period for obtaining firearms through a legal background check, further burdening the Oregon State Police who are already understaffed and underfunded.
- **Endangering victims of domestic violence and human trafficking:** SB 1551 would have allowed abusers to block domestic violence victims from obtaining firearms to defend themselves for 60 days; HB 4073 would have made it easier for human traffickers to conceal their abuse by forcing trafficked women into marriages to conceal their trafficked status.
- **Threatening financial stability:** HB 4131 would have forced banks to make bad loans, risking instability in Oregon's economy and future foreclosures.
- **Increasing costs for Oregon consumers:** HB 4122 would have increased costs for new labelling of fish at grocery stores, raising the price of healthy groceries for Oregon families; SB 1509 would have removed caps on utility fees, allowing bureaucrats to raise utility prices for ratepayers to subsidize green energy special interests.
- **Adding to Oregon's PERS liability:** HB 4011 would have increased Oregon's PERS liability by 20% for employees of the Oregon State Hospital.

The Oregon Legislature adjourned on Thursday, March 3, 2016.

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