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Senate Democrats Desperate to Pass Partisan Priorities Before Session Closes
Senate Republicans Outraged Over Rejection of Bipartisan Amendment to SB 478

Salem, OR - As the 2015 Oregon Legislative Session draws to a close, Senate Republicans expressed outrage over the partisan tenor characterizing the rejection of a bipartisan amendment to SB 478, a new mandate on companies that manufacture and sell children's toys and other household products.

Senate Democrats refused to consider the -A22 amendment, which enjoyed support from both bipartisan lawmakers and the business community, that would have aligned Oregon's new rules regulating toxic chemicals in toys with those of neighboring Washington State. The common-sense, bipartisan amendment was rejected in an eleventh-hour decision by majority Democrats.

"Educating parents about toys that may be harmful to their children is prudent policy," explained Senator Jeff Kruse (R-Roseburg), "but the way majority Democrats wrote SB 478 creates a complicated, overreaching and expensive program that would outlaw common children's toys like Barbies, Legos, bicycle helmets, building blocks and books. The bipartisan amendment would have aligned Oregon's rules with neighboring states, creating an effective and inexpensive program to keep parents in the know about the chemicals that may be in their child's toys."

Substances and products the "Barbie ban" could deem toxic to children's health include but are not limited to: Vitamin A, salt, water, basil, apples, rocks, bicycle helmets, safety goggles, toys made from recycled materials, toys with electronic components, children's building blocks, children's books, Legos, and Barbies.

"Passing SB 478 late in the game and refusing to consider bipartisan amendments proves Democrats will do anything to get their pet partisan priorities through this legislative session," said Senate Republican Leader Ted Ferrioli (R-John Day). "They have no appetite to wait until next year, when we can take the time to thoroughly vet new mandates that will cost businesses and consumers. If the legislature doesn't adjourn soon, Oregonians will suffer from increasingly costly new policies that harm working families and small businesses."

The -A22 amendment failed on an 18-11 party line vote in the Oregon Senate. The full bill, SB 478, passed along the same party lines.

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