



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 27, 2015

Contact: Caitie Butler

(503) 986-1955

(503) 680-6944

Senate Republicans Reflect on Partisan, Harmful 2015 Legislative Session
Oregon's Middle Class Will Pay the Price for Democrat Partisan Priorities

Salem, OR - Reflecting on the recently concluded 2015 Legislative Session, Senate Republicans characterized the session as one of the most partisan and harmful to working families and small businesses in Oregon history.

"Sadly, Oregon's middle class will pay the price for the Democrat majority's partisan priorities," said Senator Tim Knopp (R-Bend). "The policies passed by Democrats this session will hurt families and businesses across Oregon, especially in rural areas. Oregon is already the second-worst state in the nation to make a living, and it's only going to get harder for families and small businesses to survive and thrive."

Throughout the session, Senate Republicans advocated tirelessly for new jobs, full funding for K-12 education, and protections for Oregon's small businesses. In contrast, Senate Democrats rejected 50 pro-jobs bills that would have created new family-wage jobs and strengthened the economy in both rural and urban communities. They also intentionally underfunded K-12 education, leading to fewer school days, larger class sizes and cuts to programs like art and PE.

"Recent studies show Oregon kids and families are struggling, and our poverty rates haven't improved since the start of the Great Recession," said Senator Chuck Thomsen (R-Hood River). "We can't leave our kids and families in the dust. Democrats refused to put kids first, and now school districts will have to cut class days and lay off teachers. This has to stop."

In their 2015 Legislative Session Summary, Senate Republicans outlined key initiatives proposed and pushed for by Republican members, including programs to create jobs and expand job training; protections for small businesses against harmful Portland-style mandates; full funding for K-12 education and community colleges; blocking an attempt to steal the constitutionally-mandated 'kicker' from Oregon families; funding for infrastructure investment in rural communities; preservation of Second Amendment rights; the modernization of privacy laws and expanded statutes of limitations for rape cases; and stronger ethics laws to protect Oregon citizens from misconduct by elected officials.

"While Democrats intentionally underfunded K-12 schools and increased transportation costs for working families, Republicans worked hard to improve the quality of life for all Oregonians," explained Senate Republican Leader Ted Ferrioli (R-John Day). "If this is the new modus operandi for the Democrat majority, Oregonians need to know their elected leaders are looking out for themselves and their own partisan agenda, not for kids, working families and small businesses."

[Read the Senate Republican 2015 Legislative Summary here.](#)

###