



The Honorable Greg Smith  
Oregon House of Representatives  
District 57

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Rep. Greg Smith Applauds Pro-active Stance taken by DHS**

SALEM - [Representative Greg Smith \(R-Heppner\)](#) applauds the first step taken by the Oregon Department of Human Services toward complying with an upcoming federal law restricting the use of Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

On February 6, 2013, DHS filed a permanent rule that prevents clients from using their Oregon Trail Card to withdraw or spend TANF cash benefits at liquor stores, casinos and other gambling facilities, and retail businesses which provide adult entertainment.

The restrictions are part of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. To comply with the federal law, all states must maintain policies and practices to prevent TANF cash assistance from being used or accessed in an EBT transaction in a prohibited location. States must report to the Administration for Children and Families their implementation plan and progress by February 22, 2014.

“This only makes sense and I applaud Oregon DHS for being pro-active by filing this permanent rule a year in advance of the deadline,” said Rep Smith. “It is essential tax payers know that benefits are being used for appropriate goods and services.”

TANF clients will be notified of the change in the form of a letter sent by DHS this month.

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