



OFFICE OF THE HOUSE SPEAKER

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Salem OR 97301

<http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/kotek>

OFFICIAL STATEMENT

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House Speaker Tina Kotek on the Conclusion of the First Special Session of 2020

“This is an unprecedented moment in American history. People are rising up to demand racial justice and police reform. The coronavirus pandemic is claiming more lives every day. Oregonians are losing their jobs and many families are coping with more stress than any time in their lives.

“The only way to get through this is together. Today, the legislature rose to the challenge of this moment. We donned face coverings, maintained physical distance, and passed a series of bills that respond to some of the state’s most urgent needs.

“We heard the calls from Oregonians who are struggling to afford rent, afraid of losing their home, or about to lose the small business they spent their life building. Today we passed bills that will extend Oregon’s eviction moratorium, enact a repayment period for renters, and provide some basic protections against foreclosure.

“We heard Oregonians demanding police reform and thanks to the leadership of the People of Color Caucus, we passed six bills that will improve transparency and accountability. Make no mistake – we have much more work to do on this front, and we will meaningfully engage Oregon’s Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities in the long-term effort to create justice and equal rights for all.

“We passed practical fixes that will help Oregonians in their everyday lives. Over 100,000 Oregonians are stuck in a backlog of people waiting for routine services from the DMV. Today we ensured that drivers won’t get citations for expired driver licenses, permits, and vehicle registrations through the rest of the year due to this delay. We also ensured that Oregonians who can’t pay traffic-related fines will no longer lose their driver’s license.

“The first special session of 2020 was a success, and now we can refocus our energy on rebalancing the budget and protecting working people.”

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