



## State Representative Kim Thatcher

House District 25

Phone: 503-986-1425 ■ 900 Court St. NE, Salem Oregon 97301

Email: [rep.kimthatcher@state.or.us](mailto:rep.kimthatcher@state.or.us) ■ Website: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/thatcher>



Special Session ■ Special Legislative Update

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### Inside this Issue:

Immigration Spotlight  
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## Immigration Reform Moves Forward

The Oregon Legislature has finally taken action on what I would call an “emergency” issue: requiring legal presence in order to get a drivers’ license here in Oregon. The Senate and the House passed [SB 1080](#) and it was signed into law by the Governor. As many of you know I advocated for this in the 2005 Session, and then last year introduced the “[2007 Sensible Immigration Reform Package](#)”. However, the political will wasn’t there and all the bills died in Democrat lead committees. I’m thrilled we have finally enacted a law that is headed in the right direction toward securing our identity and preventing illegal immigrants from obtaining drivers’ licenses. Although this isn’t a perfect bill, I look forward to fixing some of the holes next Session. [Read more.](#)

Thanks for your support,

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## Rep Thatcher Calls for Iran Divestiture

“Oregonians have a rich heritage of being on the forefront of the consequential issues our nation has faced,” wrote State Representative Kim Thatcher in a [letter sent to State Treasurer Randall Edwards](#) calling for him to support divestment in Iran and other sponsors of terrorism. She is calling on Edwards to “take whatever steps possible within your administrative rule-making power to stop Oregon investments in Iran and other terrorist friendly countries.” Thatcher also asked that he, “once again support Legislative changes so Oregon can send a strong message of zero tolerance for terrorism. Stopping the flow of state investment funds is a small step that can help make a big difference.” [Read more.](#)

## Thatcher Leads Effort in Government Accountability

Since Representatives were not allowed to individually introduce bills in the 2008 Special Session, [Representative Thatcher requested the House committee on Government Accountability and Information Technology](#) introduce a bill that would establish a special Committee on Performance Excellence to add more accountability and oversight of state agencies. [HB 3613](#) received unanimous approval in the House and is now in the Senate. This measure is similar to [SB 1039](#) from the 2007 Session which made it through both the House and Senate with only one “no” vote, but was vetoed by the Governor. [Read more.](#)

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## Thatcher Supports Effort to Stop Re-hiring of Abusive Teachers

House Republicans wanted to crack down on practices that allow abusive school teachers to be re-hired in different school districts. But majority Democrats rejected the effort to allow emergency legislation to be introduced during the February session. “This is hypocritical when the majority seems to be able to introduce bills on a whim...yet when something of this import comes to our attention, it does not get the attention it deserves,” said Thatcher on the House Floor. Outside the House Chamber she added, “If this doesn’t rise to the level of ‘emergency’ I don’t know what does. This should not be put on the back burner until the 2009 Session as suggested by the Democrats. How many more abusive teachers will be passed around, while the next district has no clue about their dirty little secret?” [Read more.](#)

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### Thoughts for Thatcher:

Should there be mandatory minimum sentences for property criminals and drug dealers? What about first time offenders – prison or probation?

[Click here](#) to give Representative Thatcher your thoughts.

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