

State Representative
Kim Thatcher
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***State Budget, Immigration & Gun Rights Top
Representative Thatcher's Priorities for February Session***

(Salem) Closing a gap in the current state budget, immigration reform, and 2nd Amendment rights are among the top priorities for [State Representative Kim Thatcher](#) (R-Keizer, Newberg and St. Paul) during the Oregon legislative session next month.

"As many of us expected, the economy in Oregon didn't improve after the legislature left the State Capitol last year, and now we've seen a \$300 million dollar drop in revenue," said Thatcher. "I have been a vocal advocate for prioritizing state services long before our current budget crisis and now we need to figure out a way to do that in a very short legislative session." Thatcher is Co-Vice Chair of the Ways and Means Human Services Subcommittee and a member of the full Ways and Means Committee. She sponsored legislation last year ([House Bill 2780](#)) to require state lawmakers to prioritize when drafting the budgets for various programs.

"Clearly Oregon needs to become more user friendly for businesses in order to boost job creation," noted Thatcher. "That will help generate more tax revenue for critical state services. Another tool to help put Oregonians back to work would be the use of the federal [E-verify](#), employment screening program. Representative Thatcher is sponsoring legislation for the February Legislative Session which will **require all state agencies to use E-verify**. "In this touch recession, the state should do all it can to help ensure our tax dollars are being spent on a legal workforce," said Thatcher.

The second bill Thatcher has drafted for the upcoming session is similar to one she has proposed for several years to **protect the privacy of Concealed Handgun License (CHL) holders**. "Thousands of Oregon gun owners obtain a CHL as a personal security measure, divulging who is carrying concealed defeats that purpose." Her new bill would require people who apply for a CHL to check a box on the application stating their desire to prevent disclosure of their personal information. [Similar measures](#) sponsored by Representative Thatcher to keep these records from being released to the public passed the House of Representatives in 2009 and 2011 but were killed in the Oregon Senate.

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