State Representative Kim Thatcher (R-Keizer) House District 25



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Rep. Thatcher Attends First-Ever "National Security Begins at Home" Rally in Philadelphia

Attends ALEC Conference to Discuss Policy with Legislators in other States

(Salem) Representative Kim Thatcher (R-Keizer) today returned from a week in Philadelphia, where she attended the annual meeting of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) to share ideas and policy proposals with conservative Republican and Democratic legislators from across the country. She also joined fellow members of State Legislators for Legal Immigration for a Friday "National Security Begins at Home" Rally to urge the passage of immigration reforms at the state level.

"It's encouraging to meet with so many like-minded legislators from across the United States, and for so many to recognize the important role states play on immigration issues," Rep. Thatcher said. During the rally at Philadelphia's National Constitution Center, *State Legislators for Legal Immigration* presented model solutions that have been enacted or introduced in various states.

This year Rep. Thatcher sponsored a dozen immigration reform bills, including the Sensible Immigration Reform Package. She also pushed for legislation to secure Oregon drivers licenses, identification documents, and state services; ban state government from hiring illegal aliens; and to require proof of citizenship for voter registration. However, House and Senate Democratic leadership blocked all major reforms from becoming law.

Rep. Thatcher said the reforms are still urgently needed as part of a national effort to address illegal aliens. "We're only as strong as our weakest link—and Oregon is a weak link right now."

Over 2,000 legislators, businesses and civic leaders attended the ALEC annual meeting, which featured speeches by President George W. Bush, former U.S. Sen. Fred Thompson, and former U.S. House Majority Leader Dick Armey.

Rep. Thatcher served as a member of ALEC's <u>Commerce</u>, <u>Insurance and Economic Development Task Force</u> to enhance competitiveness, promote employment and economic prosperity, encourage innovation and increased efficiency, and limit the regulation that government imposes upon business.

The Task Force developed model legislation on insurance regulatory policy that will be shared with ALEC member-legislators throughout the country.

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