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State Representative
Linda Flores
House District 51

State Representative
Kim Thatcher
House District 25

Immigration Reform Committee Requested

(Salem) [State Representative Linda Flores](#) (R-Clackamas) and [State Representative Kim Thatcher](#) (R-Keizer) asked the Speaker of the Oregon House today to create a special House Committee on Immigration Reform for the 2007 Legislative Session. In a letter* to Speaker Karen Minnis, the two legislators pointed out many of the issues related to illegal immigration “have cross-over policy and fiscal boundaries.” They wrote the Speaker has, “used this method of special assignments for committees and task forces effectively in the past in dealing with such topics as Veterans’ Affairs, Pay Day Loans, Child Welfare and Release Estate Agency Oversight.”

Jim Ludwick, President of [Oregonians for Immigration Reform](#) said, “in the last legislative session State Representatives Linda Flores and Kim Thatcher were leaders in trying to find remedies to the problems caused by illegal immigration.” He added, “they worked to pass bills that would have denied drivers’ licenses to illegal aliens and required proof of citizenship in order to register to vote.”

In the letter, Flores and Thatcher requested to be appointed Co-Chairs of the new committee if one is formed. They both served on the House Judiciary Committee in 2005 which dealt with criminal justice issues related to illegal immigration. Flores is currently a member of the [Department of Human Services Review Taskforce](#) which has been exploring the availability of benefits for people without proper legal status.

“With the voter registration deadline coming up October 17th for the November election it’s a good time to talk about ensuring only US citizens are afforded that right,” explained Flores. She and Thatcher co-sponsored [House Bill 2583](#) last legislative session which only allowed voter registration for people who could prove they were US citizens. The measure passed the House and died in the Oregon Senate. Flores and Thatcher have both served on House committees overseeing election laws during their tenure in the legislature.

“The deadline for states to comply with the federal [REAL ID Act](#) is 2008 and we need get with the program to prevent drivers’ licenses from going to those who are here illegally,” noted Thatcher. She was a member of the House Transportation Committee and chief proponent of [House Bill 2608](#) in 2005, a bill designed to implement [REAL ID in Oregon](#).

Voting rights, drivers’ licenses and several other bills are already being drafted by Flores and Thatcher for the 2007 session. “We know there are dozens of legislative measures currently in the works by other members of the House and Senate. Why not send all these bills to the same committee to allow for a comprehensive dialogue?” the two wrote in the letter to the Speaker.

According to the [National Conference of State Legislatures](#) 550 pieces of legislation related to immigration were considered in 33 states so far this year resulting in passage of 78 new laws.

*Letter to Speaker available upon request.

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