



PRESS RELEASE

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Majority Leader Jennifer Williamson Files Net Neutrality, Plea Bargain Legislation

SALEM – House Majority Leader Jennifer Williamson (D-Portland) has filed her two personal bills for the 2018 legislative session with a focus on protecting the rights of Oregonians online and in the court room.

“I am excited to get back to work for Oregonians in the upcoming legislative session,” Rep. Williamson said. “My personal priority bills for 2018 continue the work I have been doing since joining the legislature to ensure a more just and equitable Oregon. With the federal government demonstrating its favor for corporations over individuals and our criminal justice still not working like it should, now is the time for us to work for change.”

Rep. Williamson has introduced Legislative Concept 257 which is a reintroduction of the internet service providers privacy bill she introduced during the 2017 session. She also intends to add consumer protections aimed at pushing back against the repeal of Net Neutrality rules by the Federal Communications Commission, which could have wide-ranging implications on the future of Internet freedom. On Net Neutrality, the bill uses the purchasing power of the state, requiring state divisions or subdivisions to only purchase broadband access from providers in full compliance with the Net Neutrality provisions. Those provisions include transparency in network management practices, full access to websites and equal traffic speeds.

The ISP privacy portion of the legislation reintroduces [House Bill 2813A](#) from the 2017 session. This prohibits ISP’s from disclosing, selling or permitting access to customers’ personal information unless customer provides express consent and allows customers to revoke consent at any time.

“I am standing with Oregon House Democrats who believe that Oregonians deserve to know that their information will be kept secure, that they have rights if they are the victim of a data breach, and that they can expect internet privacy,” Rep. Williamson said. “The internet should not be for the wealthy or privileged few. Every Oregonian should have equal access to a free, open and secure internet.”

Legislative Concept 116 limits the conditions a prosecutor can place on a plea offer. Currently, criminal defendants are often required to waive certain rights as a condition of the plea offers

made by prosecutors. In some instances, this policy has been expanded to include crucial constitutional and procedural rights, as well as opportunities to access rehabilitative programs and earned sentence reductions instituted by the legislature.

Among the rights that prosecutors would no longer be able to plea away are: the right to challenge a conviction based on new exculpatory evidence; the right to challenge a sentence as unconstitutionally cruel and unusual; and the right to file a writ of habeas corpus, a petition for post-conviction relief, or a motion requesting DNA testing of evidence.

“We should be striving for a justice system that serves Oregonians and is fair and just for all,” Rep. Williamson said. “No Oregonian should be required to waive their constitutional rights, even rights under international law, if they accept a plea bargain.”

The 2018 legislative session begins on February 5.

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