



2017 Legislative Successes

In the 2017 Legislative Session, House Democrats worked to fulfill the agenda we released at the beginning of the session—a pledge to meet the needs of every community in every corner of the state. Here are just some of the highlights:

Expanding Opportunity Through Quality Public Education

School Funding: The K-12 budget for 2017-19 is \$8.2 billion, an 11% increase over the last budget. Our students need more adequate and more stable funding, but this budget level means we're holding steady while revenue reform is underway. Measure 98 (career and technical training) received \$170 million in funding.

Ethnic Studies: HB 2845 establishes Ethnic Studies curriculum standards for K-12 schools; Oregon is the first state with such a program.

Cultural Competency: HB 2864 requires community colleges and universities to establish cultural competency standards.

Early Learning: HB 2013 improves access to early education by bringing more, qualified preschool teachers into the Preschool Promise program, increasing the pool available to serve low-income children.

Student Supports: HB 2648 supports at-risk students by adding school social workers to the list of professions for which school districts may receive moneys for decreasing rates of school absenteeism.

Higher Education: SB 55 continues the Oregon Promise program, helping students from working families afford community college. The higher education budget includes \$70 million to limit tuition increases.

Ensuring Transparent, Accountable Government that Effectively Meets People's Needs

Public Records Reform: HB 2101, SB 481, and SB 106 give the public timelier access to government records, create a public records advocate, and establish a Sunshine Committee to review records laws.

Lobbyist Reporting: HB 2577 expands reporting requirements for lobbyists, strengthening accountability and improving transparency. (*Passed the House; did not pass the Senate)

Candidate Transparency: HB 2298 increases transparency by requiring that all candidates appearing on an election ballot file statements of economic interest.

Dark Money: HB 2505 cracks down on "dark money" in elections by tightening the definitions of what constitutes campaigning by organizations. Any communication that refers to a candidate within 30 days of a primary or 60 days of a general election will now need to be reported.

Improving Access: SB 802 allows 16-year-olds to register to vote through their interactions with the DMV, bringing more young people onto the voter rolls through Oregon Motor Voter.

Grand Juries: SB 505 requires that all grand juries be electronically recorded—currently, only handwritten notes are taken. This will give the public more confidence in the legal system.



Keeping Oregon's Economy Growing

Keep Oregon Moving: HB 2017 will make an historic investment in preserving and modernizing our transportation system, providing billions for maintenance and upgrades of roads, expansion of transit, and safety improvements for bikes and pedestrians.

Small Business: HB 2152 permits Small Business Development Centers to use grant funds for outreach and marketing, expanding their reach to more entrepreneurs across Oregon.

Skill Training: HB 2162 ensures that 10% of the work done on large state contracts is done by apprentices, so more Oregonians can enter living wage professions.

Eastern Oregon: HB 2012 creates and supports the Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Region in collaboration with the Oregon Business Development Department.

Infrastructure Improvements: HB 2933 expands Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority grants for emergency projects.

Protecting All Working Families and Workers' Rights

Pay Equity: HB 2005 helps ensure that women and people of color receive equal pay for equal work by strengthening protections and enforcement of pay discrimination law.

Fair Scheduling: SB 828 makes Oregon the first state to establish a law giving workers certainty and predictability in their schedules.

Overtime: HB 3458 caps the number of overtime hours for most manufacturing industries and provides workers with guaranteed rest time between shifts.

Affordable Housing: HB 2004 protects tenants across Oregon from extreme rent increases and no-cause evictions. (*Passed in the House, did not pass the Senate). HB 2002 supports affordable housing preservation. SB 1051 removes local barriers to development in order to increase Oregon's housing supply.

Right to Privacy: HB 2090 helps safeguard internet privacy by ensuring that companies abide by their privacy policies and provides recourse if they violate their policies.

Wage Theft: HB 3008 makes it illegal for employers to force workers to falsify their timesheets.

Veterans' Services: Veterans' services are funded at \$32 million, fulfilling the promise of the voter-approved Ballot Measure 96 and more than tripling the previous veterans budget.



Standing with Women, Seniors, Communities of Color, and Underrepresented Communities

Banning Racial Profiling: HB 2355 addresses racial profiling by requiring police departments to collect data on foot and traffic stops and creating an accountability process. HB 2355 also reduces charges for simple drug possession to a misdemeanor.

Safety & Savings: HB 3078 improves public safety by focusing taxpayer dollars on rehabilitation and community supervision for people convicted of drug and property crimes. HB 3078 also expands the Family Sentencing Alternatives program to keep families whole. This is a continuation of Oregon's justice reinvestment effort, which is saving money and rebuilding communities.

Transgender Equity: HB 2673 streamlines and makes private the process for individuals to change their gender marker and name on vital records.

Privacy: HB 3464 protects the privacy of Oregon's immigrant communities by clarifying the rules around what information can and cannot be shared with the federal government.

Safe Campuses: HB 2972 protects victims of sexual assault and domestic violence on Oregon's college campuses by shielding them from intimidation or coercion when reporting crimes. HB 2864 creates safer and more welcoming college campuses through cultural competency standards for faculty, staff and students.

Supporting Healthy Communities

Protecting Medicaid: HB 2391 expands Oregon's innovative hospital provider tax to protect health care for the more than 1 million Oregonians who receive coverage through the Oregon Health Plan, our state's version of Medicaid.

Reproductive Health: HB 3391 ensures that all Oregonians—regardless of their gender identity, immigration status, or income level—have access to the full range of reproductive health services, and that women can make their own health care decisions.

Cover All Kids: SB 558 ensures health care coverage for all Oregon children, regardless of their immigration status.

Elder Care: HB 3359 prevents elder abuse and ensures that residential care that is provided to seniors meets quality standards. HB 2661 establishes stronger regulations of long-term care referral companies. HB 5021 improves investigation and enforcement of abuse claims.

Gun Violence Prevention: SB 719 creates Extreme Risk Protection Orders to keep guns out of the hands of those who are likely to do harm to themselves or others.

Opioid Prevention: HB 2114 creates standards for preventing the overprescribing of opiates, limits the number of excess pills in circulation, and helps local governments address the growing crisis.

Unexpected Healthcare Charges: HB 2339 protects patients from surprise medical bills caused by out-of-network medical charges.

Earthquake Safety: The bonding package includes \$100 million for seismic upgrades to schools and \$20 million for seismic rehabilitation at emergency services buildings.