



## OREGON HOUSE REPUBLICANS

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### **BIPARTISAN TASK FORCE FORMED TO PREPARE STUDENT PROTECTION LEGISLATION FOR 2009 SESSION**

SALEM— House Republican Leader Bruce Hanna (R-Roseburg) today announced he is forming a bipartisan task force to address student safety issues at Oregon's K-12 schools. The task force, chaired by Rep. Linda Flores (R-Clackamas) will be charged with preparing legislation for the 2009 session.

"I am pleased the Legislature is now taking steps to address 'secret deals' that allow abusive teachers to remain in Oregon schools," Rep. Hanna said. "However, more work needs to be done to make sure background checks and reporting methods are adequate, and the state has an effective system of identifying and rooting out abusive teachers. That's why I've asked Rep. Flores to lead these bipartisan efforts and prepare effective solutions for 2009."

"We put our trust in teachers to protect our children. This issue needs to be a top priority and I'm ready to look at whatever changes are necessary to keep our kids from harm's way," said Rep. Flores, who chaired the House Education Committee in 2005 and 2006. She was also the chief sponsor of several bills in the past few years to crack down on child abuse in Oregon schools.

Members of the task force also include Re. Debbie Boone (D-Cannon Beach), Rep. Brian Clem (D-Salem), Rep. John Huffman (R-The Dalles), Rep. Tina Kotek (D-Portland), Rep. Sherrie Sprenger (R-Scio), and Rep. Gene Whisnant (R-Sunriver). Rep. Flores said all members from both parties will be welcome to participate in the task force meetings.

The task force will begin meetings shortly after the conclusion of the February Special Session.

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