



OREGON HOUSE REPUBLICANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FEBRUARY SESSION: LEGISLATURE APPROVES SIX OF EIGHT REPUBLICAN PRIORITIES

Partisan Politics, Unfinished Business Undermined 'Test Session' Results

SALEM— The Legislature approved six of eight Republican priorities for the 2008 session, including funding for State Police and seniors' programs, and legislation to secure Oregon driver's licenses. However, House Republicans tonight said partisan politics and unfinished business undermined the results of the February "test session."

"The February session offered several important accomplishments all Oregonians can be proud of," said House Republican Leader Bruce Hanna (R-Roseburg). "Unfortunately, the session did not reach its full potential because of efforts to exclude House Republicans from the process. The Legislature also did not adequately prepare for declining state revenues, and as a result I'm concerned we may have to return to Salem to rebalance the budget."

Rep. Hanna said the Legislature is leaving behind unfinished business. The Legislature did nothing to address 'secret deals' that enable sexually and physically abusive teachers to remain in Oregon schools. In addition, the Legislature failed to create a Legislative Audits Office to increase the performance and fiscal responsibility of state government. It also failed to create a statewide professional teacher development program; a recent state-by-state report card by *Education Week* gave Oregon an F in teacher training policy, the second-worst ranking in the nation.

"House Republicans are committed to improving student safety and the quality of our teachers at Oregon's schools," Rep. Hanna said. "It's a shame the Legislature did not choose to hire its own auditor, and this lack of accountability for record state spending could come back to haunt us later. We will continue to make these issues our priorities throughout 2008 and the 2009 regular session."

House and Senate Republican Priorities- Final Results

Republican Priority	Action*
<i>Provide 24-hour Oregon State Police Coverage</i>	Success
<i>Hold State Government Accountable for Spending and Waste</i>	Failure- SJR 41- In Senate Education and General Government Committee
<i>Secure Oregon Driver's Licenses and ID</i>	Success

<i>Documents</i>	
<i>Protect Oregon Project Independence for Senior Citizens</i>	Success
<i>Train Oregon's Teachers for Excellence</i>	Failure- SB 1097- In Senate Education and General Government Committee.
<i>Expand Water Resources for Eastern Oregon Agriculture</i>	Success
<i>Reform Oregon's Land Use Laws, Restore the 'Big Look'</i>	Success
<i>Protect Oregonians from Predatory Scams</i>	Success

**Under Speaker Jeff Merkley's session guidelines, no Representative is allowed to individually introduce legislation.*

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