



**REPRESENTATIVE GENE WHISNANT
OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE DISTRICT 53**

**WHISNANT NAMED TO KEY COMMITTEES;
WILL VICE-CHAIR JUDICIARY**

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**CONTACT: LEYLA ESTES
503-986-1453**

REP. WHISNANT PUSHES FOR COMMON SENSE IMMIGRATION REFORMS

SALEM— Rep. Gene Whisnant (R-Sunriver) today supported bringing immigration reforms to the House Floor, urging action on bill's to fix Oregon's broken citizenship and residency laws. Rep. Whisnant voted to withdraw HB 3553 and HB 3554 from committee, where House Democratic leadership had placed the bills to die for the 2007 session.

“My constituents recognize that immigration is not exclusively a federal issue, and they are demanding state action on common sense reforms,” Rep. Whisnant said. “I voted for immediate votes on legislation to fix laws that allow illegal aliens to obtain drivers licenses, identification documents and other public benefits.”

HB 3553 and HB 3554 includes measures to:

- Require proof of citizenship for voter registration.
- Require proof of legal presence for Oregon driver's licenses, permits and ID cards, and require ODOT to report those who attempt to obtain these documents through fraudulent means.
- Require the state to implement the federal Real ID Act, and require ODOT to protect the personal information of applicants for driver's licenses, permits and ID cards.
- Require proof of legal presence for state benefits, and allow state agency employees to report those who can't provide valid proof of legal presence to federal immigration authorities.
- Directs ODOT to issue temporary drivers licenses to those who are legally present on a temporary basis.
- Prohibit state agencies and businesses under state contracts from hiring illegal immigrants.

- Prohibit the state from awarding economic development grants to those who knowingly employ illegal immigrants.
- Establish tough sentencing laws for human trafficking activities.
- Allow law enforcement to investigate and detain violators of federal immigration laws.
- Allow Oregon district attorneys to transfer illegal immigrants convicted of additional crimes to federal immigration authorities.

“The House is expected to adjourn in four weeks, and Democratic leadership will not allow serious immigration reforms to reach the House Floor,” Rep. Whisnant said. “Oregonians simply can’t wait until the 2008 special session or the 2009 session for action.”

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