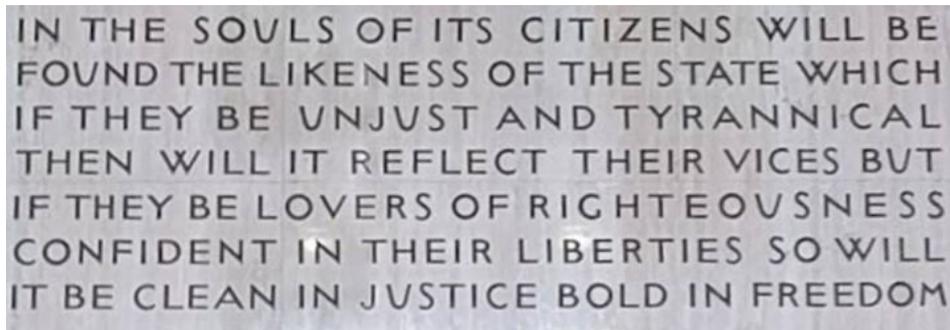


Oregon Friends Legislative Newsletter for Feb 12 2017

A goodly number of Friends from Multnomah Meeting, Eugene Meeting, and Bridge City Meeting were in Salem this past Tuesday for EMO's Interfaith Advocacy Day. Here are some of their reports. Later on in this newsletter are some Quaker-Testimony-related bills we will be following (we will fill in the blank spaces as we get more bill numbers; please help us with this as you learn of specific bills).

A post by Lew Scholl:

I went to the Oregon State Capitol in Salem yesterday joining over 450 people for the Interfaith Advocacy Day to talk with our Senators and Reps. This inscription in the Capitol rotunda seems particularly appropriate for these times. It reminds me of how our Quaker "queries" direct us to reflect on our own attitudes and behaviors.



IN THE SOULS OF ITS CITIZENS WILL BE
FOUND THE LIKENESS OF THE STATE WHICH
IF THEY BE UNJUST AND TYRANNICAL
THEN WILL IT REFLECT THEIR VICES BUT
IF THEY BE LOVERS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS
CONFIDENT IN THEIR LIBERTIES SO WILL
IT BE CLEAN IN JUSTICE BOLD IN FREEDOM

From Nora Kelly Barker in Eugene:

About 20 of us met with Sen. Floyd Prozanski. He also was very positive on the issues we focused on. He is working with others on a bill he calls "Measure 97 light" to increase funding for the budget.

About 15 of us met with Rep. Paul Holvey. He is aware of some climate bills being discussed. He wants to put a price on carbon but didn't

commit to what variation of that he supports. He also was positive on all the issues. He mentioned the Landlord-Tenant act specifically.

From Paul Barker in Eugene:

There seemed to be an unusually high amount of energy at this year's EMO Advocacy Day. It was great to hear the Attorney General of Oregon speak, and to participate in the session on Climate Change.

We met with Senator Floyd Prozanski and Representative Paul Holvey. Both seemed well informed and supportive of our legislative priorities.

They both stressed that this year the elephant in the room is the \$1.8 billion budget deficit. While we all agreed that the most appropriate line to cut would be "corrections" (is that a misnomer?), it is very unlikely to happen. Both said they would be supportive of almost any revenue enhancement bill with a chance of success. Floyd mentioned that he has a "97 Light" bill that he is proposing that would put a significant dent in the current problem.

At the same time one key component of the problem is PERS. I don't fully understand the problem, but it seems to me that the PERS system was faulty in its design. Two options occur to me:

- * If PERS payments were to be linked to stock market values, they should have been structured as 401Ks such that investments in the stock market values were made simultaneously with the time they are earned and not an accumulated liability for future tax years.

- * If PERS was intended to be an entitlement to a retirement salary, this should have been defined as a % of the individual's last salary (50%?) which was pro-rated against the number of years served. I.e. Someone whose 30 year career was dedicated to public service to the State of Oregon would receive a full 50% of their salary on retirement at age 65, but one who only worked 5 years for the state would only be entitled to

1/6th of that rate as his/her other earning years would be expected to cover the other retirement obligations.

I suspect that the legislature is going to have to broker a deal with its Republican half to get the PERS obligations under control to restructure PERS and make it a system which would be viable for many years to come. *(Editor's note: On Wednesday February 8, at 3:00, the Senate Committee on Workforce had an informational background hearing on PERS, which interested Friends can watch in archived form at www.oregonlegislature.gov – Citizen Engagement – Audio and Video – Meetings and Events.)*

From Leslie Hickox:

Hello Mary - It was a great day. I thought you'd like 2 pics, one of my Sen. from SE District - Sen. Thomsen (R on Ways & Means). It was a fairly good conversation & he was welcoming. ... Thanks for getting us to Salem. In hope - Leslie

note- Also Met Janelle Binum our new Rep. for SE- very encouraging (Dem, chair of Business & Commerce Comm.)

From Joe Snyder:

There were about 23 of us who met with Jennifer Williamson, majority leader of the house. We met in the lobby for lack of space. We were on the same page with pretty much everything. Too many for much more than a brief statement on each of the major topics. Many thanks were offered on both directions. We probably had almost double that number for our meeting with Ginny Burdick, jammed into the conference room with folks standing all around. She was also on board with all, and very grateful for us. Both, but especially Ginny, reminded us that our wishes depend on the budget, which is very dicey, and that any pressure we can put on reluctant members of

the legislature to increase the budget will be the most useful things we can do.

To Help You Follow Issues before the 2017 Oregon Legislative Session and Discern What You Are Led to Do:

1. Equitable System of Taxation – related to Quaker Witness of Integrity

Revenue: We need to discern what to do about our state's \$1.8 billion budget deficit, now that Measure 97 did not pass. What is appropriate for Friends to do about this? Since any proposed solution is almost certain to be unpopular, perhaps we as Friends can serve a good purpose by sharing our thoughts with our elected representatives and supporting them to act with integrity and courage. Also, our Quaker witness of integrity would include being willing (as your editor believes Friends are) to pay our own fair share of taxes, as we seek discernment on what is fair.

2. Reduce Violence, Halt Prison Growth, Reduce Use of Solitary Confinement, Halt the Death Penalty, Improve Public Safety (addressing gun violence) – related to Quaker Witness of Peace

Gun Safety:

We are very fortunate to have one of our QVS volunteers, Damon Motz-Storey, working in the Portland office of Physicians for Social Responsibility on the issue of gun safety. Here is a briefing from Portland PSR on this issue:

There are simple, proven policies that can reduce gun violence while also preserving the rights of individuals. In recent years, Oregon has taken important steps to strengthen our background check system and better protect victims of domestic violence. But we can do more.

These are four critical priorities that demand action this year:

- **Establish an Extreme Risk Protective Order.** Give families and law enforcement the ability to petition the court to temporarily remove firearms from a person in crisis who is a danger to themselves or others.
- **Close the “Boyfriend” Loophole.** Oregon has strong protections to remove guns from domestic abusers, but we need a broader definition of “domestic relationship” to include unmarried couples and others.
- **Close the Charleston Loophole.** Right now, a dealer can sell a gun after three days, even if the background check isn’t done. Instead, require that the background check be completed before a dealer hands over the gun.
- **Require Safe Storage of Guns Around Kids.** If someone fails to safely store a firearm and a child gains unintended access to it, they should be held responsible for what happens next.

These priorities relate to a number of Oregon state bills (see below), which are subject to change and new bills may be yet to come. You can have folks sign the following petition to pledge support of the above priorities to Gov. Brown and OR legislators: <http://www.blueoregon.com/petition/prevent-gun-violence/psr/>

Thanks!
Damon

HB 2130: Child Access Prevention (CAP)

Creates crime of endangering a minor by allowing access to a firearm.

Chief Sponsors: Reps Smith Warner, Keny-Guyer, Piluso;
Senators Steiner Hayward, Dembrow

Note:

- HB 2130 has a felony penalty attached.
- Studies indicate that CAP bills with felony penalties are the most successful at reducing child access.
- Age of minor is under 18.

Committee: House Committee on Judiciary

HB 2237: Close Charleston Loophole; Change relationship status requirement from “intimate partner” to “family or household member;” No Guns for Stalkers

- Prohibits transfer of firearm by gun dealer or private party if Department of State Police is unable to determine whether recipient is qualified to receive firearm.
- Modifies definition of relationship status pertaining to types of court orders and misdemeanor convictions that cause person to be prohibited from possessing firearms.
- Provides that conviction for stalking causes person to be prohibited from possessing firearm unless person obtains relief from prohibition.

Filed the request of Governor Kate Brown
Committee: House Committee on Judiciary

HB 2523: Safekeeping of Firearms

Authorizes gun dealer to accept for safekeeping firearm surrendered by person or family or household member of person who is at risk of causing physical injury to self or others with firearm

Chief Sponsors: Rep. Buehler, Senator Steiner Hayward
Committee: House Committee on Judiciary

SB 232: Dispossession of guns for DVRO

Requires court to ask petitioner at hearing for family or household abuse restraining order whether respondent possesses any firearms and to record answer on order. Directs presiding judge of judicial district to adopt protocols relating to surrender of firearms by persons prohibited by court order from possessing firearms.

Chief Sponsors: Senator Monnes Anderson, Rep. Piluso
Committee: Senate Committee on Judiciary:

Damon Motz-Storey
Program Assistant, Oregon Physicians for Social
Responsibility

damon@oregonpsr.org (303)-913-5634

Criminal Justice System Reform and Prison Reform:

Watch this space. A major issue is whether Oregon will build a new women's prison, or use the funds for alternatives to incarceration. A good source of information in this area is the Partnership for Safety and Justice, safetyandjustice.org, which you can also follow on Facebook (Safety and Justice). Other bills currently in the House Committee on Judiciary are **HB2238**, reducing penalties for drug offenses, and **HB2615**, which reduces the penalty for "theft committed by return of stolen merchandise." (Thanks to Sen. Lew Frederick and Friend Lew Scholl for bringing these to our attention). See also the excellent "2017 Legislative Endorsements" page on the website of the Coalition of Communities of Color.

3. Eliminate Hunger and Homelessness, Increase Family and Community Well-Being – related to Quaker Witness of Community

Housing:

HB 2003: "Repeals prohibition on city or county ordinance or resolution controlling rent charged for rental of dwelling unit." **Removing state preemption** so local governments (like Portland or Eugene) can enact locally-tailored housing solutions. In House Committee on Human Services and Housing (Rep. Alissa Keny-Guyer, chair); no hearings scheduled yet.

HB 2004: Making no-cause evictions illegal in Oregon. "Prohibits landlord from terminating month-to-month tenancy without cause except under certain circumstances

with 90 days' written notice and payment of relocation expenses.” In House Committee on Human Services and Housing (Rep. Alissa Keny-Guyer, chair); no hearings scheduled yet. A housing coalition rally is planned at the State Capitol for March 2.

Housing Assistance Budget: The Oregon Housing Alliance asks \$50 million for the biennium for the EHA and SHAP assistance programs. These are administered by social caseworkers who know their clients and can tailor the assistance to each specific person’s condition, for greatest effectiveness – rent help, a bus pass to go look for a job, etc.

Beyond the Legislature: Local Actions: The Portland City Council requirement that a landlord doing a no-cause eviction must pay the tenant’s moving expenses.

Hunger: As the Interfaith Advocacy Day briefing says, “Our state needs a strong and proactive set of food and economic assistance programs to respond to hunger and to support families moving toward employment and economic stability.” TANF and the Oregon Hunger Response Fund need to figure in the budget discussions.

Immigration: Oregon law prohibits state resources from being used for federal immigration law enforcement. Our Governor has clearly said that Oregon is a “sanctuary state.” In this connection, Executive Order 9066 is also worth noting and celebrating; it will be read as a proclamation this Thursday in our state Senate. Here is an e-mail that was forwarded by Friends in the Salem Meeting:

Subject: Executive Order 9066 Resolution in the Senate

When: Thursday, February 16, 2017 11:00 AM-12:00 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).

Where: Capitol, 900 Court Street NE, Salem 97301

The section below is part of the proclamation that will be read in the Senate. It would be great if we could have some people come down to Salem.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Oregon Legislature recognizes the historical significance of February 19, 1942, the date Executive Order 9066 was signed by President Roosevelt, restricting the freedom of Japanese Americans and other legal resident aliens through required identification cards, travel restrictions, seizure of personal property, and incarceration; and supports the goals of the Japanese American community in recognizing a National Day of Remembrance to increase public awareness of these events; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Oregon Legislature, along with the people of Oregon, acknowledge the seventy-fifth anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066, in order to recognize and honor the heroism, sacrifice, patience, and loyalty of the Japanese-American World War II veterans and internees, and to remember the lessons and blessing of liberty and justice for all; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That the Oregon Legislature, along with the people of Oregon, pause to acknowledge the dangerous lessons of the Japanese-American internment experience, appreciate the contributions that immigrants and refugees bring to our nation, and commit to valuing ALL Americans, irrespective of their ethnicity, religion, or country of origin.

Beyond the Legislature: Local Actions: Friends from Multnomah Meeting are forming a Sanctuary Cohort, and others will be a support group for them, to keep us informed on this issue and what we can do.

Health Care:

“Cover All Kids” – The 2% of Oregon children who are not currently covered by the Oregon Health Plan are essentially the undocumented children. Rep. Diego Hernandez is one of the chief sponsors of **the “cover all kids” bill, HB 2726**, which is in the House Committee on Health Care (no hearings scheduled yet) and which:

“Requires Oregon Health Authority to convene work group to advise and assist in implementing targeted outreach and marketing for Health Care for All Oregon Children program.

Permits all children residing in Oregon and meeting financial eligibility requirements to enroll in program. Requires authority, in collaboration with Department of Consumer and Business Services if necessary, to seek necessary federal approval or waiver of federal requirements to secure federal financial participation in costs of outreach and marketing and in expansion of eligibility for program. Declares emergency, effective on passage.”

Education: Obviously another large part of the budget discussion. Please help us stay informed on developments.

4. *Workplace Policies – related to Quaker Witness of Integrity*

Wage Theft: Tools for victims of wage theft: **HB 2169** on attorney fee awards, **HB 2180** establishing a lien on employer property, **HB 2181** protecting against retaliation by employer. Public hearing on all three: Monday, February 13, at 1:00, House Committee on Business and Labor.

5. *Environmental Stewardship: Carbon Pricing, Sustainable Transportation, the Many Concerns about Fossil Fuel Transport.*

Climate Justice:

Carbon Pricing:

Clean Energy:

The best source of up-to-date bill information will probably be:

Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR): [Clean Air Lobby Day in Salem to support clean air for Oregonians.](#)

Wednesday, February 15th, 2017

- **9:30 AM gathering and registration**

- **10:00 AM -11:15 AM rally and lobby training with remarks by Oregon PSR's Dr. Susan Katz**
- **11:30 AM - 1:00 PM legislative visits**

Oregon State Capitol Building (900 Court Street NE in Salem)

Beyond the Legislature: Local and Regional Action:

Portland General Electric (PGE) has proposed to build two additional gas-fired power plants at Boardman, Oregon. This Thursday, February 16, there will be a Public Utility Commission hearing on this in Salem:

9 am - 11 am

PUC's meeting on PGE's 20 year energy plan (be a presence of red in the room)

Hearing Room, First Floor

Oregon Public Utility Commission

201 High St SE #100, Salem, OR 97301

The Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign let us know about this meeting, and they invite you to a lunch discussion with them at 11:00 after the meeting. There is also a 7:45 a.m. meetup at their offices for people going to Salem, and you can call them about carpooling:

Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign

1821 SE Ankeny St

Portland OR 97214

Office: 503-238-0442 x 305

Another good source of information on local fossil fuel issues and actions is goto350pdx@gmail.com which is kept updated by the very dedicated climate activist Bonnie MacKinlay.

From Your Editors:

We'll do our best to have weekly updates during the 2017 legislative session. If you have additions, corrections, questions, or concerns, please contact Mary Priem mkpriem@yahoo.com and/or Zoe Wyse zoe.wyse257@marylhurst.edu