

BONHAM

Opposition is not denying problem

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You can have attempted murder where the person ultimately had minor wounds, healed very quickly and returned to their life. That victim is treated the same as this victim, who has lost all potential quality of life. The bill ultimately specifies what that is. Quality of life is loss of significant cognitive function, permanent loss of hearing or vision or loss of limb or mobility. If it fits that criteria it must be a willful intent. It can't be an accident."

House Bill 1530, as explained by the 59th district representative, is a tax policy "disguised as environmental policy." It's a mechanism for the government to cap carbon emissions, charge for those emissions, and then take that money and do other things with it, Bonham said.

Bonham predicts if the bill is passed, companies and industries that can't afford the tax will move out of the state and leave an unfulfilled demand for products and services.

"The manufacturing facility that's producing concrete is going to shut down in Oregon, but the demand for concrete didn't go away, so somebody else is going to make concrete," Bonham



Bonham addresses constituents in The Dalles during a town hall meeting last year. Mark B. Gibson photo/file

said. "They're going to make it in Texas or they're going to make it in China. You now have areas where they manufacture the same product without the regulatory environment that we'll have, but now you have to ship it here. So, in the manufacturing process, it's creating more greenhouse gas, and the shipping process adds to that. So, what we're doing here in Oregon is creating something that makes us feel good even though the global

impact is actually a net negative, which is hard because there's so many people that are passionate about this and I think most Oregonians want to do something positive with respect to environment and climate."

Although Bonham is not supportive of the bill, he said that doesn't mean he's against improving the environment. He'd rather find a better solution where industries and companies stay in Oregon, he said.

'Ezra's Law' draws support

Salem—A packed hearing room of supporters braved long drives and challenging road conditions to join Rep. Daniel Bonham (R-The Dalles), Jefferson County District Attorney Steven LeRiche, Marion County District Attorney Katie Suver and Tina Jorgenson in Salem Monday for the introduction of Ezra's Law.

HB 4122, called "Ezra's Law," would enable prosecutors to pursue stricter sentencing for criminals who assault and incapacitate victims in ways which decrease their long-term quality of life.

Together they offered unwavering support for the legislation on the grounds that current sentencing procedures are not suitably severe for offenders who rob youths of their long-term health.

Jorgensen, the grandmother of Ezra Jerome Thomas, the name sake of HB 4122, testified. "I was going to be able to cherish graduations, proms and even look forward to him getting married and building a family of his own someday," said Jorgensen. "He had a whole life ahead of him. I had a life of grandma moments to share with him. Sadly, my hopes and dreams for Ezra's future were taken away on Nov. 19, 2017. Before that date, I lived a normal life. Every ounce of joy was taken from me that day."

Ezra is a 4-year-old boy in Jefferson County who on was attacked when he was just two years old by Josue Jair Mendoza-Melo. Today, Ezra requires care 24/7 and can do next to nothing on his own. He has tracheal and feeding tubes and a programmable shunt to keep fluid from building up in his brain. He's legally blind and has between one to three seizures per hour.

"The frustration of difficult conversations with victims created the birth of Ezra's Law," said District Attorney LeRiche. "This law will serve to protect those who cannot protect themselves and as a deterrent against assaulting the innocence of youth."

Mendoza-Melo was sentenced to 12 years for his crime.

Bonham said, "Nobody in this building can change the past. No one can understand the grief that comes from a judicial system that is unable to provide closure. We're here today so that future victims get the justice that they deserve. Ezra, Jessica, Little Roy and countless other victims are having their voices heard today."

"While I am disappointed that the legislature couldn't take swift action in moving Ezra's law during a short session, I'm optimistic to see all of the momentum that is building behind this cause. Giving an opportunity for the voices to be heard and creating a work group for all the stakeholders to be at the table working will create a policy that we can all be proud of," testified Bonham.

Ezra's Law highlights a loophole in the law where sentencing in cases involving severe quality of life loss aren't proportional to the sentencing options. HB 4122 establishes a procedure for charging aggravated versions of certain assault and attempted murder offenses when a defendant causes permanent physical injury to a victim during commission of crime. If the defendant is convicted of aggravated offense, the court shall sentence defendant to 25 years in prison.

"It's easy to get caught up in the sadness of the past, but to see the joy on the faces of victim and their families, they were finally given a 'day in court' and an opportunity for real justice; it's truly one of the highlights of my session," Bonham said.

Bonham represents House District 59, which encompasses the Central Oregon and the Columbia River Gorge communities of Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Culver, Fossil, Madras, Maupin, Metolius, Mitchell, Mosier, Sisters and The Dalles, as well as unincorporated areas of Wasco, Jefferson, Deschutes and Wheeler counties.

SCHOLARSHIP

'Anybody can do anything'

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a time and was active with the Oregon State University Extension program.

Jenny said the scholarship doesn't have a GPA requirement. "My grandma was definitely all for 'anybody can do anything' so she certainly wouldn't want to have anybody excluded as far as grade requirements."

And Jenny concurs. "In all fairness, you never know. I know a lot of successful

people that had really bad GPAs."

Her grandma was always one for urging her to soldier on. "She's definitely a strong believer in hard work and if you get knocked down, get up and try a little harder next time."

"She taught me a ton about work ethic and being tough. She didn't cry and get overwhelmed with emotion."

She learned that her grandma put on a strong face for people. Jenny recounted how Marlys once told her, "I would just cry when I got home." I never knew that about her."

"She was kind, giving and generous," Jenny said.

So it was no surprise that after Marlys passed, local social media pages filled with tributes to her.

Some recounted receiving holiday cookies from her. Marlys loved to bake and she loved Christmas. Her home was always decorated seasonally, but especially for Christmas.

One social media poster recounted, "One year a long time ago, when she worked in the JC Penney's shoe department, knowing I didn't have much money, she bought my kids shoes. I never forgot and passed it on. Sweet lady."

Jenny thought it was ironic that her grandma, who didn't even own a cell phone and

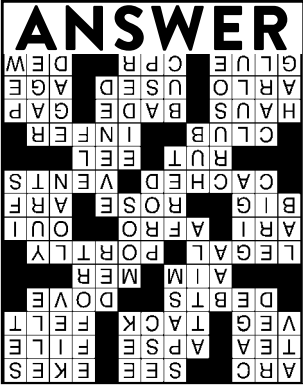
certainly wasn't on social media, was celebrated on it upon her passing. "She would've gotten a kick out of it." She recounted how Marlys got a star for her 2011 chamber award, "she had it on her door, it was a stick-on. She didn't do it for the need of recognition, but you could

tell later on she was really proud of that star."

Marlys always volunteered at the blood drive held the day after Thanksgiving. This past year, in her honor, Jenny and her family also

volunteered, and her husband donated blood. "It turns out he was a really, really unique blood type they really need. He's A negative. So now they're like stalking him," she joked.

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Front row left to right: Nicole McBride, Natalie Crocker, Amber Harris, Holly Webster, Sabrina Poole.
Back row left to right: Francisco Medina, Cassandra Vasquez, Claudia Ordaz. Not Pictured, David Crawford.



Back row left to right: Pat, Desi, Mark, Yolanda, Liz. Front row left to right: Martha, Jocelyn, Alondra, Sue. Not pictured Katie.

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