

# Group Challenges Carter Appointment

## Lawsuit calls hiring into question

BY JAKE THOMAS

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A conservative group stated Monday that it intends to file a lawsuit against the state Department of Human Services over the hiring of former State Sen. Margaret Carter, a longtime local African-American leader.

Common Sense for Oregon awarded Carter, DHS, and the Governor's office its third "Golden Fleece Award" for her appointment to a high-paying job that the group alleges violated the Oregon Constitu-

tion.

Carter, the first African American woman elected to the Legislature, stepped down in August to take a \$121,872-a-year position as the state's deputy Director for Human Services Programs.

During the last legislative session, which ended in June, Carter co-chaired the Joint Legislative Ways and Means Committee, which has broad influence over how state agencies are funded, including DHS.

Both Carter and DHS have



Margaret Carter

denied that there were any back-scenes tit-for-tat negotiations while she was doing

budget work.

But Ross Day, the executive director of Common Sense for Oregon, called the hiring "self-dealing at its worst."

Day alleges that Carter's appointment violates a clause of the Oregon Constitution that prohibits lawmakers from taking any civil office that was created or saw its funding increased while in office.

During the last legislative session, lawmakers voted to create the Oregon Health Authority, which will oversee many services once provided by DHS. It also created the

DHS deputy administrator position, which Carter now occupies, to administer certain divisions of the department.

Rep. Larry Galizio, D-Tigard, left the Legislature about the same time as Carter to take an administrative job with the Oregon University System. Day said he doesn't have a problem with Galizio's appointment because his position wasn't created while he was still in the Legislature.

Day told the Portland Observer that he has no evidence that Carter and DHS worked behind the scenes for the po-

sition, and will file papers for the lawsuit later this week.

DHS Spokesperson Patty Wentz, said that Carter was sick and unavailable for comment.

Wentz didn't have any comment on the lawsuit, but pointed out that there were errors in the statement by the group. For instance, the group said that House Bill 2009 created Carter's position. It didn't; it created the Oregon Health Authority.

It also incorrectly identifies Carter as the co-chair of the "Ways and Means Committee."

## Obama Issues Health Emergency

### As rush for vaccines hits clinics

(AP) -- Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said Monday the H1N1 flu vaccine "is coming out the door as fast as it comes off the production line."

But at the same time, she acknowledged delays in getting a sufficient supply for all those demanding it.

"We were relying on the manufacturers to give us their numbers and as soon as we got numbers we put them out to the public. It does appear now that those numbers were overly rosy," Sebelius said. "We do have a vaccine that works," she said.

President Barack Obama declared a health emergency over the weekend to give hospitals and health professionals more leeway from federal regulations to respond to the illness.

Sebelius said officials now have a supply of about 16.5 million doses of the vaccine, while conceding that's millions of doses below the amount needed.

She couldn't predict just how widespread the virus, also called the swine flu will be. Roughly a thousand people have died from it so far in the United States. But she also said officials do not believe there is yet any cause to close down schools and cease other daily activities.

Said Sebelius: "If we had found the virus a little earlier we could have started a little earlier."

Asked what advice she would give to people who have waited futilely in line for shots, the secretary replied, "I want them to come back."

"I hope that people aren't discouraged," she said. "I know it's

frustrating to wait in line and particularly if you end up with no vaccine. We wish this could have been smoother, that we had a larger supply. We knew it would come in waves."

Sebelius sought to assure people that eventually there will be enough supplies "for everyone."

Dr. Anne Schuchat, who heads the Immunization and Respiratory Diseases Division of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said it's hard to predict how long the H1N1 wave will continue, so even getting vaccinated a few months from now — when vaccine supplies are more plentiful — won't be too late.

"It wouldn't be too late," she said. "We don't know how long this increase will go on. ... We might see another wave after the first of the year. I think it's important for people to take steps to protect themselves."

## Bicycling Pays Dividends

continued from Front

hopes that it builds upon its existing network of bike lanes, with emphasis on creating more "bike boulevards," which are streets with little or no car traffic. She points to places like the Ladd's Addition in southeast, and the east bank esplanade as examples.

In addition to infrastructure, education is also a critical component, said Birk, who characterizes the relationship between them as "fingers on a hand."

Earlier this month, the city began showing an educational video to police officers on how to better handle bicycles. The video notes that "the outlaw edginess" that was associated with bikes is now a thing of the past.

In downtown, and elsewhere, some businesses have asked that their parking spaces be replaced with "bike corrals" that allow more people to lock up their bicycle.

Jean Baker, the president of the Alliance of Portland Neighborhood Associations, said that having more bike infrastructure can sometimes help businesses since the clientele it attracts can access them more easily.

She generally doesn't anticipate more problems for businesses from increased bicycle infrastructure because city streets are often wide enough to accommodate both.

"The streets are wide downtown, and not a problem," she said.

While Portland mulls over its plans for increasing its bicycle infrastructure, many other U.S. cities are quickly catching up, said Birk.

"New York is blowing us away right now," said Birk of the Big Apple's investments in cycling. She also points to Minneapolis, Seattle, and San Francisco as cities to watch for bikes.

"There's a lot of cities out there that are going to give us a run for our money," she said.



Spirit Mountain's spectacular Event Center features headliner concerts, comedy and live sporting events.



**GLADYS KNIGHT**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Tickets are \$15, \$25, \$30



**KC & THE SUNSHINE BAND**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

Tickets are \$15, \$25, \$30



**Check Out Our Free Weekly Entertainment On Line!**

For Tickets Call Star Tickets Plus at 800.585.3737 or visit [SPIRITMOUNTAIN.COM](http://SPIRITMOUNTAIN.COM)



**SPIRIT MOUNTAIN CASINO**

The Northwest's Premier Entertainment Destination  
HWY 18 • GRAND RONDE, OR • [SPIRITMOUNTAIN.COM](http://SPIRITMOUNTAIN.COM)