

Lawmakers Pass Ambitious Agenda

(AP) -- Oregon lawmakers adjourned the 2022 short legislative session Friday after passing ambitious legislation, including overtime pay for farmworkers, \$600 stimulus payments for low-income workers and a \$400 million spending package focused on affordable housing and homelessness.

Some of the notable bills that passed included heat relief for vulnerable Oregonians, protections for election workers, setting up rulemaking for the private forest accord, giving nurses access to a program that provides mental health and wellness support and preventing police officers from stopping motorists for some minor infraction.

The Legislature also passed a bill that aims to forestall tragedy upon tragedy when a megaquake strikes the Pacific Northwest. The measure, passed overwhelmingly by the House and Senate this week, requires owners or operators of bulk oils and liquid fuels terminals located in the Portland area and in Lane County to conduct and submit seismic vulnerability assessments and then to implement a seismic risk mitigation implementation plan.

In addition lawmakers passed significant spending packages, made possible by \$2.5 billion in



Lawmakers and aides mingle after sine die, the final adjournment of the Legislative Assembly on Friday at the Oregon State Capitol Building in Salem. (AP photo)

revenue that wasn't taken into account when the state budget was passed last year.

One of the largest investments was \$400 million to urgently address affordable housing and homelessness in a state that has

one of the highest rates of unhoused people in the country.

Lawmakers also passed a \$300 million investment focused on supporting school staff and students. The funds will go toward summer learning programs and

activities for K-12 students, addressing the workforce shortage and supporting school districts impacted by the wildfires. In addition, lawmakers passed \$100 million investment to expand access to affordable child care.

College Leader Honored



Dr. Karin Edwards

Clark College President Dr. Karin Edwards has been recognized as education leader who has advanced student success initiatives, earning the Paragon President award by the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

The award recognizes college presidents who have shown support of student success initiatives leading to stronger pathways to degree completions, transfers and employment.

"This award is especially meaningful to me because I was nominated by our students," Edwards said.

To be eligible for the award, college presidents and chief executive officers had to have been new in their role, having served less than three years. Before joining Clark College in Vancouver, Edwards served as president of the Cascade campus at Portland Community College in north Portland.

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