



from the office of
Senator Kim Thatcher

Senator Kim Thatcher Stands Up for Independence of Public Records Advocate

SALEM, Ore. – Today, Senator Kim Thatcher (R-Keizer) successfully carried [Senate Bill 1506](#) (29-0), the bill that makes critical changes to the position of Public Records Advocate and the Public Records Advisory Council (PRAC).

“I carried this bill on the floor for a vote because it’s critical that Oregonians have access to transparency and that the records of the State’s business are made available to any who seek them,” said Senator Thatcher.

The bill allows the position to be an independent advocate for public records within the executive branch. The measure further changes the structure of how the Public Records Advocate is hired, vesting the power to hire and fire within the PRAC and removing the direct appointment of the position from the purview of the governor. Further, the legislation enables the PRAC to introduce public records concepts through any legislative office, and empowers the council to weigh in publicly in support or opposition to public records concepts.

“We cannot allow a figurative wall that keeps Oregonians from accessing public records that tell the story of how our government operates or spends our tax dollars,” said Thatcher after the vote. “Sadly, that’s the reality records-seekers experience with our current government. SB 1506 is critical to ensure the Public Records Advisory Council and Public Records Advocate does not serve to the liking of any governor or elected official, but they represent the interests of all Oregonians.”

Senator Thatcher believed the changes were necessary after Oregon’s first Public Records Advocate, [Ginger McCall](#), resigned due to conflicts of interest created by Executive Branch staff. McCall came forward to the media to reveal that under the current law, she was unable to deliver on transparency promised to the public.

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