

SENATE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS



2019 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Healthcare

- Close the coverage gap by expanding Medicaid (SB 7, 2017)
- Allow real medical marijuana, including the ability to obtain it legally (SB 346, 2017)
- Coverage for preexisting conditions
 - This will be based on SB 474, 2018
 - SB 474 required coverage of preexisting conditions other than those actively presenting and care received within the past six months

Education

- Community Schools (SB 30, 2017)
 - May be some changes recommended by education advocates
- Better Teacher Pay – Automatic COLA
 - New legislation
 - Probably 2%
- Pay it Forward; Pay it Back (SB 14, 2015)
 - This would create a pilot program to explore allowing students to pay student loans back at a fixed amount of income instead over ten years
 - Legislation was passed in Oregon, but the program wasn't funded. It has been considered in other states for community colleges

Economy

- Fight worker misclassification (SB 38, 2017)
- Increase the minimum wage to \$15/hour (SB 28, 2017)
- Refundable EITC (SB 172, 2017)
- Child care for low income workers and student parents

- New legislation based on a GBPI proposal
- GEEARS estimates that a lack of accessible child care costs the state economy \$17 billion overall and \$100 million in lost tax revenue
- Cost would vary based on who is covered
 - \$7 million to cover single parents enrolled in HOPE Grant programs
 - \$30 million to cover all parents in HOPE Grant programs
 - \$500 million to cover all children up through age four
- Note: numbers may change a little bit as DECAL is changing the reimbursement process

Issues

Civil Rights: Bail reform

- Will be crafted in conjunction with the ACLU
- Arrestees would be analyzed for flight risk and public safety only
- If they are safe to release and not a flight risk, no bail would be charged

LGBT: Georgia Civil Rights Act (SB 119, 2017)

Guns:

- Free background checks
 - New legislation
 - Require gun dealers to preform background checks for private sales free of charge
 - Could be coupled with a small state sales tax break on ammunition along with the sale to try and make it more likely that people would use it (Credit on state portion of first \$100 would be \$4)
- Require training for WCP (SB 136, 2017)
- Allow locals to ban carry on their property (SB 135, 2017)

Immigration: New Americans Program (SB 93, 2017)

- Would direct DHS to create a program to assist green card holders complete the naturalization process

Voting Rights:

- Paper ballot (SB 59, 2017)
- Gerrymandering (SR 6 and SR 7, 2017)
- Georgia Voting Rights Act
 - One voter access bill instead of a bunch

- Would include expanding early voting, repealing Voter ID, automatic voter registration, and same day voter registration

Criminal Justice: Marijuana reform (SB 105, 2017)

Women: Paid family leave (SR 73, 2017)

Environment: Paris Accords (SB 340, 2018)