

Representative Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)



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Rep. Suzanne Bonamici was first elected to represent Oregon's first congressional district in a special election in January 2012 to fill the unexpired term of Rep. David Wu, who resigned in August 2011. In November 2012, Bonamici easily won re-election to Congress, with 71 percent of the vote in the heavily democratic district, which includes part of downtown Portland as well as Yamhill, Columbia, Clatsop, and Washington Counties and part of Multnomah County. The district is home to Nike's headquarters in Beaverton and has the highest medium income in Oregon according to the Census Bureau. Outside the Portland metro area, natural resource industries, including agriculture, logging and fishing, dominate in the district.

Bonamici grew up in a small town in Michigan and then moved to Oregon for college. She attended Lane Community College and then earned undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Oregon. Bonamici began her career as a consumer protection attorney at the Federal Trade Commission in Washington, D.C., where she focused on preventing predatory and discriminatory lending practices. She returned to Oregon in 1986 to enter private law practice and specialized in representing small businesses. After raising her children, Bonamici returned to work as an aide in the Oregon House. She was elected to the House in 2007 and appointed to the state Senate in 2008, where she served until she resigned to seek the first district congressional seat.

Bonamici serves on the following House committees: Education and the Workforce, where she is a member of the Higher Education and Workforce Training Subcommittee and Workforce Protections Subcommittee; and the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, where she was recently elected Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Environment and also is a member of the Subcommittee on Space.

Bonamici is interested in public education issues ranging from pre-kindergarten to higher education as well as consumer protection issues. As a state senator, Bonamici was chair of the Consumer and Small Business Protection Committee and also served on the Workforce Development Committee. In 2011, she also served as chair of the Redistricting Committee. In 2009, Bonamici worked with a broad group of stakeholders, including OSU's Tim Stock and Paul Jepson, to sponsor and enact legislation

requiring school districts to adopt Integrated Pest Management, protecting school children from toxic pesticide exposure and improving air and water quality on school grounds.

Bonamici's congressional priorities include strengthening community college job training programs and increasing the cap on credit union business member lending to help funnel capital to small businesses. As a state senator, Bonamici was a leading proponent for mortgage reform. She also worked on legislation to connect Oregonians to the training and certification necessary for jobs in industries ranging from healthcare and welding to clean energy technologies. She argues that public education is "the key to rebuilding our communities and our economy."

In February 2013, Bonamici and Rep. Aaron Schock (R-Illinois) announced the Congressional STEAM (STEM+Arts and Design) Caucus. The group will host briefings and advocate for policy changes to encourage the integration of the arts into the traditional Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math curriculum. Legislative aides from Bonamici's district office participated in panel discussion on STEAM issues sponsored by OSU's Center for Research on Lifelong STEM Learning at OSU in April 2013.

Bonamici introduced the "Tsunami Debris Cleanup Reimbursement Act" (H.R. 1491) and the "Marine Debris Emergency Act" (H.R. 1425), in April 2013, to assist coastal states like Oregon in cleaning up debris from the March 2011 tsunami off the coast of Japan. In addition, Bonamici co-sponsored the "Weather Forecasting Improvement Act of 2014", which passed the House. This bill would advance weather research and technology to improve disaster preparedness.

Recent visits to OSU

Rep. Bonamici visited OSU in April 2013 for briefings on superfund research, student financial aid, and the NSF and wave energy research underway at the O.H. Hinsdale Wave Research Laboratory. In June 2013, she toured OSU's Hatfield Marine Science Center and NOAA's new Pacific Marine Operations Center located in Newport.