



Politics Without Party

By Shawn Cleave
OAR Government Affairs Director

"If both side are unhappy, then it's probably a good compromise" is turn of phrase that's too frequently used at the Oregon State Capitol. But the assumption that compromise is good for democracy is not always true. And retreating to political rhetoric and tribalism isn't the best tactic, either.

It's been three and a half years since I joined OAR as your Government Affairs Director. I've worked in partisan politics in various capacities and I've always been frustrated with "red vs. blue" politics; good policy is where I like to hang my hat as opposed to any party line. I love our non-partisan rallying cry: "We are REALTOR Party." It's the foundation of our advocacy and, in these uncertain political times, my guiding light at the Capitol.

I'm proud of the advocacy our Government Affairs Key Committee has provided as we've developed our **First Time Home Buyer Savings Account** legislation (**HB 4007**). As the immediate past and current committee chairs, Vikki Breese-Iverson and Randy Shaw have been fantastic leaders, and they have presided over a cohesive agenda that absolutely demonstrates our commitment to advancing the American Dream of Home Ownership above any party affiliation or personal political bent.

The current 2018 Legislative session has been about compromise, but not for the sake of compromise alone. HB 4007 is the second time we've introduced our savings account legislation. This session, we included policies related to funding through document recording fees for existing rental assistance and homelessness initiatives. While we haven't landed on language that we absolutely agree with, we still have a path forward and are continuing to negotiate in good faith with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle.

On Thursday, February 15, the House Committee on Housing and Human Services moved HB 4007 to the House Committee on Revenue, a necessary step towards a House vote and (ideally) eventual passage into law. Unfortunately, OAR cannot support the current version of the bill based on a fee structure for real estate document recording that is overly burdensome for homeowners. But we still have time to work on and achieve a resolution.

If you have a moment, please take the time to send an [email](#) to Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer (D-Salem) to thank her for giving OAR the opportunity to further develop HB 4007.

Thanks for your support, and best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shawn Cleave". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

For more information about HB 4007, click [here](#).