Washington – Today, Rep. Earl Blumenauer, a senior member of the House Budget and Ways & Means Committees, released the following statement regarding the 51-48 defeat of the Blunt contraceptives amendment to the Senate Transportation bill:

“The Blunt amendment was irrelevant, politically poisonous, and a perfect example of why the Senate seems to have trouble accomplishing anything these days. More than that, the Blunt amendment was a blatant insult to women in the workplace, telling them that their access to healthcare ought to be subject to the whims of their employers. Antics like this are what Olympia Snowe was referring to when she said that the partisan atmosphere in Congress is blocking progress on our nation’s problems.

“Let’s use some common sense here. This debate should be about passing a transportation bill. Let’s see if Republicans can restrain themselves from undermining women’s healthcare for a few days while the rest of us try to rebuild and renew America.”