

To: House Committee on Rules
From: Representative Jodi Hack
Date: April 13, 2015



HJR 31-Oregon Impeachment

April 13, 2015

Good afternoon,

Vice Chair Smith-Warner, Vice-Chair Gilliam and members of the Committee, for the record, my name is Jodi Hack and I am the Representative for House District 19, which includes parts of south Salem, Aumsville and Turner. I am here today on behalf of House Joint Resolution 31 which serves to provide the State of Oregon with a much needed process for impeachment of the executive branch.

In light of recent events, the people of Oregon, my constituents in particular, began to ask some serious questions about accountability. One of those questions was: if needed, could Oregon impeach a member of the executive branch? Currently, Oregon is the only state in the country without a process for impeachment. The need for accountability and transparency in government is always essential. The people of Oregon have lost faith in their government and elected leaders and it is up to us ensure future accountability and rebuild trust in their elected leaders.

My constituents and yours need to know we take these matters seriously. This resolution is a tool for accountability of the executive branch. It gives Oregonians the ability through the legislative body to hold those in power accountable.

This resolution is not a weapon and should never be used as such. It is constructed in a manner that provides for a difficult yet fair process of impeachment if ever needed - and we all hope it is never needed.

We must be thoughtful but diligent in creating checks and balances that create accountability. I believe this resolution is thoughtful and serves to join our fellow forty-nine states. It will allow Oregonians the opportunity to vote on a Constitutional amendment giving them the opportunity to decide whether or not they want this form of accountability for the executive branch.

Thank you for your time and consideration.