

Thank you for hearing these important bills on lawmaker accountability. It is time that something is done to prevent lawmakers from violating their oath of office, wasting taxpayer money, and failing to show up for work. Repeated legislative shut-downs due to walkouts harm Oregonians and our ability to address Oregon's most pressing issues. Now, more than ever, we need our elected officials to simply do their jobs. I believe there need to be serious repercussions for legislators who refuse to show up and do the work that Oregonians sent them to Salem to do.

When legislators refuse to show up to work, they continue collecting a taxpayer-funded paycheck. Regular people don't get paid when we don't go to work, and politicians shouldn't get paid for skipping work either. According to Legislative Financial Services, the 2020 walkout cost nearly \$500,000 in reimbursements and per diems while lawmakers were on a 35-day vacation.\* That's half a million dollars, and precious time wasted that could have been used to address the growing pandemic, help small businesses, strengthen schools, protect health care, and provide emergency funding for housing, floods, and wildfires.

Oregon is on the brink of coming out of the pandemic and we need every single lawmaker to show up to work for us every single day to deliver assistance to people who have lost their jobs, are at risk of losing housing, and get our schools and small businesses open again. Delays in Salem will delay our recovery.

That is why I urge you to vote yes on SB 261, SB 262, SJR 3, and SJR 4. When lawmakers don't show up for work they shouldn't get paid and there should be fines to hold them accountable. They shouldn't be allowed to use political contributions to pay their salaries and fines. If they miss 10 days of work unexcused they shouldn't be allowed to run for office again and we should change things so that a few lawmakers can't shut everything down.

Lawmakers should be held to the same standards as regular Oregonians. It's time to stop the costly walkouts and get back to work.

\* As reported by The Lund Report, March 5, 2021: [thelundreport.org/content/session-costing-taxpayers-nearly-500000-ends-little-done-divisions-deeper-ever](https://thelundreport.org/content/session-costing-taxpayers-nearly-500000-ends-little-done-divisions-deeper-ever)

Sincerely,  
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