



Chair Holvey and members of the Committee,

My name is Andrew Rogers and I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Student Association.

I write to let you know that the OSA Executive Committee has called for Representative Nearman to resign or be expelled.

As you are all aware perhaps more so than anyone else, our state Capitol building is more than just a building. It is also both a symbol and a staging ground for our democratic process. For our democracy to work, this building must be a safe place for all Oregonians. Unfortunately, Representative Nearman's behavior has endangered legislators, capitol police, and capitol staff, and made the capitol less safe for advocates and constituents.

It is my fear that for the Representative to continue to hold his seat would send a clear message to many Oregonians that our Capitol is not a safe place for them. My job at OSA is to help college students and young people access the Capitol, voice their needs to elected officials, and take part in our democratic process. I cannot imagine what it would have been like trying to do my job that day were students or OSA staff in the building, and I extend my respect, my support, and my care to the many folks I know were indeed in the position of navigating the events of December 21, 2020 from inside the building, including many of you.

I want to know that in future sessions, my organization can feel safe bringing staff and students to Salem to talk to our elected officials, and I know that each of you is here today and every day because you share that vision. Please help us work towards that vision together by voting yes to expel Representative Nearman.

Thank you for your service on this committee and for your consideration.

Best,

Andrew Rogers
Executive Director
Oregon Student Association
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