

I strongly urge the members of the House Special Committee on December 21, 2020, to support HR 3 and move to expel Rep. Nearman from office. Rep. Nearman opened the door for violent, armed rioters to attack the Capitol and State Police while threatening lawmakers and Capitol staff. Video evidence released recently of him planning to do this in front of a group of people only confirms what we already knew - that this was a planned action. Rep. Nearman was recorded telling these people the best day to show up. He gave them his phone number, told them to contact him when they were there, to let him know which door they were at, and that he would come and let them in. Five days later that is exactly what happened.

His actions knowingly put people's lives at risk and resulted in injury to police. All of this in the middle of a life-threatening pandemic. This kind of behavior is unsafe, irresponsible, criminal, and absolutely unacceptable from an elected member of the legislature. He has shown us clearly that he has no place as part of the governing body of this state.

The members of this committee have a clear choice and a clear duty: Not only has Rep. Nearman been criminally charged for "unlawfully and knowingly" opening the door to rioters, the legislature's own investigation found he acted intentionally. To maintain the integrity of our state legislature and to keep the Capitol building safe he must be removed from office immediately per the Oregon constitution.

Thank you,
Jason Powers
Portland, OR