



A STRONG VOICE FOR OREGON'S WORKERS

TO: Chair Holvey
Members of the House Special Committee

FR: Graham Trainor, President, Oregon AFL-CIO

RE: HR 3, Support for Representative Nearman Accountability

June 10, 2021

The Oregon AFL-CIO represents 300,000 workers across the state and is a voice for all workers in the legislative process, including ensuring that the legislators that represent them do so with dignity, respect, and honesty. Thank you for holding this Special Committee on House Resolution 3. Under the wisdom of the drafters of the Oregon Constitution, Article IV, Section 15 provides the legislature with a clear path and clear duty to expel any member who engages in disorderly conduct.

As revealed by security footage, media investigations, and his own admissions, Rep. Nearman planned and executed what he called "Operation Hall Pass," which was a coordinated action that let armed, violent attackers through the doors of the state capitol when it was closed due to COVID-19 transmission risk. In doing so he put the safety of every single person working in the State Capitol that day at risk by enabling violent and armed extremists to attack and threaten the law enforcement officers, legislators, staff and the Capitol building itself. The attack resulted in injuries to police, arrests of attackers, and the terrorizing of capitol employees and lawmakers alike. That same day, this same group attacked journalists on the scene and attempted to illegally break into the building.

Expulsion from the House of Representatives is not only the right consequence of his disorderly conduct, it protects the safety of everyone who works in the Capitol, especially Black, Indigenous, and Oregonians of color in public service and public office who are most vulnerable to attack. The groups he let in have a long history of espousing racist, xenophobic and misogynistic views.

The actions you take now will set a standard for the future. On behalf of the Oregon AFL-CIO and all working Oregonians, we ask you to support HR 3. Rep. Nearman's premeditated actions were dangerous, shameful and clearly meet the definition of disorderly. Under the provisions provided by the Oregon State Constitution, and because he has thus far refused to resign, he must be expelled from the Oregon House of Representatives immediately.

Passage of HR 3 should not be a partisan issue and I appreciate that members of both parties have called on Rep. Nearman to resign or be expelled. Any lawmaker - regardless of party - who colludes with those who would break our laws and put the safety of people at risk - should lose their right to serve. We respectfully urge your YES vote on HR 3.

