

Re: Written testimony in favor of House Resolution 3

Dear Chair Holvey and members of the House Special Committee on December 21,

As a resident of Representative Nearman's district I would like to express my full support for HR 3. Representative Nearman's actions on December 21, 2020 were dangerous, shameful and clearly meet the definition of disorderly behavior. Under the provisions provided by the Oregon State Constitution, he must therefore be expelled from the Oregon House of Representative immediately.

Article IV, Section 15 of the Oregon Constitution provides the legislature with a clear path and duty to expel any member of the legislature who engages in disorderly conduct. As security footage as well as media investigations and his own recent admissions have revealed Representative Nearman intentionally planned and executed a coordinated action, which he called "Operation Hall Pass", that allowed armed attackers through the door of the state capital, while it was closed due to a heightened risk of COVID transmission.

As a consequence, he jeopardized the safety of every single person working in the capitol on December 21. While Oregon State Police were thankfully able to prevent the attackers from breaching the Senate and House chambers the attack resulted in injuries to the police, the terrorizing of capitol employees and other lawmakers as well as attacks on journalists on the scene.

As a resident of Representative Nearman's district I am shocked and appalled by his actions. The fact that these actions were premeditated meets the standard of disorderly conduct and Representative Nearman must be expelled from the Oregon House of Representative without delay. Expelling Representative Nearman is not only the right consequence of his disorderly behavior, but it also protects the safety of everyone working and serving the public at the state capitol.

Passage of HR 3 should not be a partisan issue and I appreciate that members of both caucuses have called on Representative Nearman to resign or to be expelled. Any lawmaker, regardless of their party membership, who colludes with those who break our laws and jeopardizes the safety of people should lose their right to serve.

The members of the Special Committee must listen to the voices of the people harmed by Mike Nearman's dangerous and premeditated actions. As a resident of Oregon and Representative Nearman's district I strongly believe that the actions you take now will set a standard for the future of our state and country.

Best regards,

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