

March 3, 2020



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Oregon Progressive Party Position on Bill at 2019 Session of Oregon Legislature:

SJR 201: Support

Dear Committee:

The Oregon Progressive Party (OPP) supports this resolution, which would send to voters an amendment to the Oregon Constitution changing the quorum requirements on the floors of the House and Senate from two-thirds of the members to "a majority" of the members.

The existing two-thirds requirement is rare among state legislatures. 46 states recognize a simple majority of members (or fewer, in the case of Massachusetts) as the quorum necessary to conduct business, as does the U.S. Congress. Only Oregon, Indiana, Tennessee, and Texas require a supermajority of members to be present in order to conduct business.

The existing requirement is obviously undemocratic, allowing a one-third minority of members to bring the floors to a complete halt for indefinite periods of time.

This testimony is joined by the Independent Party of Oregon.

Oregon Progressive Party

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