

The walkouts of the last three years have been an inexcusable abrogation of duty that, to protect Oregonians, needs to stop. Bills to restore forest health, to fund homeless shelters, to increase transparency in government, to expand community mental health treatment, to trim tax breaks for wealthy investors, and many more have failed to even be considered. This is an incredible loss for all Oregonians and there should be definitive penalties applied when Legislators who have been elected fail as they so obviously have, to engage in basic democratic processes. A legislator made the comment in a constituent meeting last week that he believes minority rights are not being honored and there is no other option (than the extreme behavior of walkouts). This is an example of rhetoric that only divides and inflames. We have seen members of a legislative party descend to the level of threats against law enforcement and providing armed insurrectionists entry to our Capitol building. We need to pass this bill to assure that members of the Legislative Assembly show up to work and engage in lawful democratic processes.