



Chair Wagner, Vice Chair Girod, members of the Committee, for the record my name is Kenya Juarez, and am the Interim Executive Director of Next Up.

Next Up amplifies the voice and leadership of diverse young people to achieve a more just and equitable Oregon. We operate leadership development programs for high schools and college students, as well as young adults who want to engage in policy advocacy and our democracy. We are also proud to advocate for policies that expand elections equity and access.

Next Up led on critical policies that are now part of Oregon's pride in our democratic system, like automatic voter registration and paid postage on ballot envelopes. As too many states across the country are erecting barriers between Americans and their right to vote, we have the honor of being a key part of Oregon leading in a different direction: Opening our elections, democracy and government to all voices.

Of course elections equity and access is only one part of Oregonians and their relationship to their government. The other is that our government must work, and our elected officials must do their job. The decisions you make here have a lifelong impact on the well-being of young people, of all people.

Legislative walkouts that shut down the government shut down our opportunities. They mean that critical funding can't be allocated and essential Legislative business can't get done. Oregonians are struggling during the pandemic and when politicians walk out on the job they are walking out on us. Walkouts slow down our recovery and could block bills to help unemployed Oregonians, small businesses, schools and help us prepare for the next wildfire season.

That is why there must be serious repercussions for legislators who refuse to show up and do the work that Oregonians sent them to Salem to do, which is why we support actions to hold them accountable and stop costly walkouts. When lawmakers take the oath of office, they swear to uphold the constitution and do the people's work.

Recently released public opinion polling shows broad and deep support for these type of measures, but Oregonians want our government to **work**.

We support this suite of legislation to hold lawmakers accountable including imposing fines, taking away their compensation when they don't show up for work, banning repeat offenders from running for office and ensuring that walk away lawmakers can no longer shut down the legislature and prevent important work from being done for Oregonians.

Thank you for your time and for having us here today.

