



March 17, 2021

Chair Wagner, Vice Chair Girod, members of the Committee,

Basic Rights Oregon strongly supports all bills being heard today: SB 261, SB 262, SJR 3 and SJR 4.

Basic Rights Oregon has worked for over 25 years to ensure that all LGBTQ Oregonians experience equality by building a broad and inclusive politically powerful movement, shifting public opinion, and achieving policy victories. We envision an Oregon where all LGBTQ Oregonians can live free from discrimination and be treated with dignity and respect in every community in our state.

Our supporters are teachers, small business owners, health care professionals, other frontline workers, and so much more. They, like many Oregonians, have struggled in this pandemic to go to work and provide for themselves and their families. They are looking for legislators to go to work, too, to pass legislation that provides better access to health care and housing, to combat racism and discrimination, and to keep our communities safe from COVID, wildfires, and more. They need legislators in the building to pass important legislation.

We believe there needs to be consequences for legislators who don't show up to do the work that Oregonians sent them to Salem to do, which is why we support actions to stop costly walkouts. When politicians walk out, they are ultimately walking out on all Oregonians. 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's why these four bills are so vital.

We're happy to see recently released public opinion polling shows broad and deep support for these types of measures, and that Oregonians want our government to work.

We strongly encourage you to vote 'aye' on all four of these bills.