

Senator Wagner, vice-chair Girod and members of the Senate Rules Committee:

My name is Catherine Campanella-Stearns. I live in Corvallis, Oregon. I'm speaking to you today in support of Senate Bills 261 and 262, and Senate Joint Resolutions 3 and 4.

As a former Department of Human Services employee and former Union shop steward, I object that my hard EARNED tax payer dollars are being used to “reward” those legislators who CHOOSE to not show up for work. Many times in my 25 years of state employment, I did not like what was going on, I did not “want” to go to work and I went anyways. I went because I promised to do the job when I accepted the job. Ignoring or avoiding conflict doesn't help or resolve a situation. That's a lesson most folks learn by adulthood.

Likewise, legislators elected by their constituents to serve their constituents need to be accountable to their constituents. Show up for work. If a legislator does not like proposed legislation, their duty to their constituents and to the tax payers funding their compensation is to show up for work...and DO the work of improving or voting against the legislation. It is that easy to comply with the oath each legislator takes each term.

I further take offense that campaign contributions donated for the purpose of a successful election campaign are given in good faith are being used to dodge responsibility of paying fines for personal misconduct. That usage defeats the purpose of the contribution, as well as, defeats the purpose of the paying a penalty for misconduct.

As this legislative session has started off with some of the biggest challenges our state has ever had to contend with, obstructionist tactics are serving no one. Tax payers pay taxes to fund the services we all use for an orderly society; not for rewarding a temper tantrum.

Please support Senate bills 261 and 262 and Joint Resolutions 3 and 4. Thank-you.

