

Chair Wagner, Vice-Chair Girod, members of the committee, for the record my name is Jacob Menefee, I am a resident of Portland, Oregon and a recent PSU graduate. I am writing today to express my support for SB 261.

Over the years, I have worked at many different jobs across a number of industries. I've worked as a farm hand, a food service worker, a retail employee, an organizer. In every role I've ever been in, the expectation has always been the same; that I show up and that I do the work that I was being paid to do. I see no reason why that shouldn't also be the case for our elected leaders.

We need our lawmakers to be present, and to engage in the democratic process. Now more than ever. We can't afford any more costly delays when Oregonians across the state are suffering from the health and economic effects of this pandemic.

That's why I urge you to vote yes on SB 261, SB 262, and SJR 3, SJR 4. If elected officials don't like a bill, they should engage in the democratic process by working to improve it, or voting against it. There should be consequences when a lawmaker walks off the job. They shouldn't be getting paid for skipping work, and they shouldn't be able to bypass these penalties by using political contributions to pay their fines or salaries. Oregonians overwhelmingly support proposals like this to hold lawmakers accountable and ensure that the legislature's work can continue.