

Dear Members of the Special House Committee:

I call on you to take, with utmost seriousness, your duty to uphold standards that the public expects of elected Members who serve in the Legislature.



Representative Nearman has betrayed his duty to serve the public and the people's trust in a concerted and premeditated act of political violence. Video evidence, as reported by OPB, makes crystal clear Representative Nearman's intent to disrupt the legislative process. The video shows Representative Nearman coaching constituents from the halls of the Freedom Foundation, to text him so that they could enter a closed Capitol building. Capitol surveillance video also shows Nearman opening the door.

It is appalling that a legislator would enable far-right vigilantes and paramilitary groups to threaten and intimidate lawmakers from the work of the special session, including funding to battle COVID and provide rent relief that working class communities desperately need.

We cannot allow far-right political violence to interrupt the work of lawmakers that people expect: funding for schools, essential services, COVID safety precautions, and rent relief.

In the aftermath, Rep. Nearman has embarked on a flippant vanity tour. Instead of remorse, he has boasted on Lars Larson that he will go down as a Jeopardy question. Do not wait on Representative Nearman to resign; this is who he is. He has long shown himself as lacking judgment and empathy in association with Billionaire-funded extremist organizations that are anti-worker, anti-LGBTQ+, and anti-immigrant. It is long overdue that Representative Nearman is held accountable for wanton disregard for other people's lives and wellbeing.

Sincerely,

Sarah Kowaleski
Coalition Organizer, Portland Jobs with Justice