

Chairman Lively and members of the Committee:

I would like to thank Representative Brock Smith for contacting me and alerting me on how to submit comments on this proposal.

Since the beginning of the covid crisis the party of QAnon (Republicans) across the nation have been promoting hoaxes about the disease and how it should be treated - to the detriment of America's health and American lives. They have consistently downplayed the threat posed by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. As a result, Republican super-spreader events have blossomed across the nation. Meanwhile, in Oregon, the same QAnon party has been fighting against sound science-based recommendations about how to address the pandemic from wherever they come to the point that the Oregon Republican Party has become identified as the party that seeks to spread covid. Recall that this state party lives in the delusional QAnon world that claims the January 6th insurrection against the U.S. and our democratic nation was undertaken as a 'false flag' operation by the Black Lives Matter movement and Antifa. I acknowledge that House Republicans have rejected that position, but they have not denounced the party that agreed to it. Now we find a bill sponsored by one of those individuals that is designed to hamstring the Governor in her legitimate efforts to nurse the state through this pandemic. It is insane to suggest that the best route for deciding what an appropriate set of recommendations, guidelines, or regulations should be is a bill that curtails options for addressing the problem even if they are suggested by medical science.

Time and again Republicans have demanded that it is more important to open the economy than protect lives. This is a position that could only be adopted by individuals who either live in a delusional QAnon world or feel confident that their healthy economic status allows them to avoid situations where spread of covid is most likely to occur. Working Oregonians have no such luxury; they need to maintain an income to keep food on the table. It is the responsibility of state and federal governments not to force such individuals to expose themselves to the virus but to provide economic support that affords them every opportunity to avoid such situations.

This is yet another deluded anti-science proposal from a party that consistently stands foursquare against science whenever science offers recommendations that don't suit their preconceived partisan delusions about what freedom demands. Over the last few years, we have seen too many actions in the state legislature that reflect this anti-science posture. Please don't endorse another; let sanity prevail!

Respectfully submitted
Dr. Alan Journet