

February 23, 2021



## Oregon Progressive Party Independent Party of Oregon

### Position on Bill at 2021 Session of Oregon Legislature:

#### **SB 527: Questionable**

Dear Committee:

The Oregon Progressive Party (OPP) and Independent Party of Oregon (IPO) question the scope of this bill, which states that it would ban from the Joint Committee on Ways and Means or a subcommittee of it or the Emergency Board any legislator, "if the member, a relative of the member or a business with which the member or relative is associated is a party to a contract with the State of Oregon for the provision of goods or services to the state, including but not limited to capital construction projects."

Legislators themselves are parties to contracts with the State of Oregon for the provision of services to the state. That is how legislators get paid. This bill would literally forbid any legislator from serving on the Joint Committee or its subcommittees or the Emergency Board.

Assuming some sort of exception for the contract between the State of Oregon and each legislator, the bill would also apparently ban any person with a relative who works for the State. Again, such relatives would have employment contracts with the state. We see no good reason for such persons to be banned from the Joint Committee or subcommittees or Emergency Board.

The bill would also ban any person with a relative who is employed by any contractor to the State, which could include all of the public employee unions. The bill could be interpreted as banning every relative of every public employee.

This bill needs clarification.

#### **Oregon Progressive Party**

**Daniel Meek**  
authorized legal representative  
[dan@meek.net](mailto:dan@meek.net)  
503-293-9021

