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Critical Public Safety Bills on Hold as Senate Republican Walkout Stalls Legislation

Abortion rights and public safety bills among legislation being held up

SALEM, Ore. - Today, [Representative Jason Kropf](#) (D-Bend), chair of the House Committee on Judiciary, delivered a speech on the critical public safety bills that have stalled due to Senate Republicans' unconstitutional walkout.

Public safety is a top priority for communities across the state, and House Democrats have introduced and supported multiple bills that will make our neighborhoods safer.

Proposed legislation would address crime and gun violence, hold criminals accountable, address the public defense crisis, tackle fentanyl overdoses and save lives, and make sure that Oregon State Police have the resources they need.

“We were elected to address the issues that are top of mind for Oregonians: homelessness, behavioral health, education, and – importantly – public safety,” **said Representative Kropf, a former public defender and deputy district attorney.** “We have to be focused on tackling our biggest challenges. It’s time to get back to work.”

Senate Republicans walked out on the job over the [Reproductive Health & Access to Care Bill](#), House Bill 2002, which would protect and expand the same abortion rights Oregonians had under Roe v Wade. [Over 72% of Oregonians support abortion](#) – well above the national average.

The walkout also defies the will of Oregon voters who [overwhelmingly voted for Measure 113](#), establishing penalties for legislators who have more than 10 unexcused absences. Today marks day 12 of the walkout.

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