



STATEMENT

OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

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BIPOC Legislators Call on Rep. Nearman to Resign Following Criminal Charges

SALEM, OR—Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) legislators, including Rep. Khanh Pham, Rep. Ricki Ruiz, Rep. Mark Meek, Rep. Andrea Valderrama, Rep. Andrea Salinas, Rep. Wlnsvey Campos and Sen. Kayse Jama, issue the following statement regarding the [criminal charges brought against](#) Rep. Nearman (R-Polk County) announced this past Friday:

“As BIPOC members of the legislature, we call on Rep. Nearman to resign.

“When Rep. Nearman opened the Oregon State Capitol door to armed, violent white supremacist rioters, he put every single person in the building in danger. Moreover, the beliefs and values espoused by these rioters put our BIPOC legislators and staff in extreme danger, threatening our livelihoods and existence.

“The rioters Rep. Nearman let into the building were not shy about their beliefs. The insurrection on December 21, 2020 was led by hate groups, including Patriot Prayer, a known hate and white nationalist group. Prior to entering the building, the rioters spewed racist, xenophobic rhetoric; they held Confederate flags, a symbol of oppression and violence against Black and other communities of color; they peddled unfounded conspiracy theories about our Presidential election, theories that primarily sought to discredit counties with large BIPOC voter turnout.

“There is an adage: ‘When someone tells you who they are, believe them.’ Rep. Nearman has shown us who he is several times now, not just when he permitted white supremacist rioters into the building during the COVID emergency order, but throughout his entire political career. He is a member of hate groups, including the anti-immigrant group Oregonians for Immigration Reform, where he has served as a board member. This past Saturday, he was scheduled to speak at a rally in Salem attended by white supremacist and nationalist groups, including the Proud

Boys and The Three Percenters militia movement. These are white supremacist hate groups and their racist, violent tactics have no place in our Capitol, the underpinning of our vibrant, diverse democracy.

“Nearman is set to appear in Marion County Court on May 11. As Black, Asian, and Latinx legislators, we do not have the luxury of waiting this out. Every day that Nearman continues as a state legislator, a clear message is sent: your lives, your wellbeing, your safety, do not matter. We call on members of all caucuses, especially House Republican leadership, to call on Nearman to resign and denounce white supremacy, xenophobia, and white nationalism. Our right to feel safe depends on it.”

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