



PRESS RELEASE

OREGON LEGISLATIVE BLACK, INDIGENOUS AND PEOPLE OF COLOR (BIPOC) CAUCUS

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Black, Indigenous and People of Color Caucus Calls for Calm Ahead of Anticipated Right-Wing Rally

Ask counter-protesters to avoid main demonstration

SALEM – [As far right groups including the Proud Boys and Patriot Prayer prepare to hold a rally in Portland this weekend](#), the Oregon Legislature’s Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) Caucus is calling for counter-demonstrators to stay away from the main demonstration.

The BIPOC Caucus jointly issued the following statement:

“The leaders of the hateful demonstration have clearly stated their intention is to damage our community and intimidate our fellow community members. These hate groups are not welcome here. We must show them that the violence and hate they wish to bring to our streets is unacceptable.

“We are calling on Oregonians who share our goal of ending police brutality and racial injustice to avoid the main demonstration. As we have seen time and again, the hate groups that have organized these rallies are often heavily armed and intend to commit acts of violence. They also use these rallies to drain our resources and gather material to recruit others. Let’s not empower them with our presence.

“We can continue to peacefully and lawfully speak out against white supremacy, police violence and systematic racism, without giving these hate groups an opportunity to cause turmoil. We stand in opposition to violence of any kind during demonstrations. While we cannot control the actions of others, we can control what we choose to do ourselves.

“The Proud Boys and Patriot Prayer are here to bring violence and spread hate. But we know their agenda and our community will not stand for violence or hate. We will not be intimidated or silenced, but we also will not allow these individuals to sow the chaos and destruction they so desperately seek.”

The members of the Legislature's Black, Indigenous and People of Color Caucus (BIPOC) are Rep. Teresa Alonso Leon (D-Woodburn), Rep. Janelle Bynum (D-Happy Valley), Rep. Diego Hernandez (D-Portland), Rep. Akasha Lawrence Spence (D-Portland), Rep. Mark Meek (D-Oregon City), Rep. Andrea Salinas (D-Lake Oswego), Rep. Tawna Sanchez (D-Portland), Sen. Lew Frederick (D-Portland) and Sen. James Manning (D-Eugene).

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