



PRESS RELEASE

OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

For Immediate Release
April 30, 2021

For more information, Contact:
Hannah Kurowski:
Hannah.Kurowski@oregonlegislature.gov

House Majority Leader Barbara Smith Warner Calls on Rep. Mike Nearman to Resign After Criminal Charges Announced

SALEM, OR – House Majority Leader Barbara Smith Warner makes the following statement in response to [Friday’s announcement](#) that Rep. Mike Nearman (R-Polk County) faces criminal charges for allowing white supremacist and other extremist rioters into the State Capitol on December 21, 2020. Rep. Nearman is charged with first-degree official misconduct and second-degree criminal trespass, according to court documents.

“Rep. Mike Nearman must resign immediately.

“When Rep. Nearman opened the door of the Capitol to armed, violent extremists, he not only endangered the physical safety of every person, legislator, and staff in the building, but also the very foundation of our democracy. In many ways, the attack on the Oregon Capitol was a dress rehearsal for the violent insurgency we all witnessed at the U.S. Capitol in January. **We cannot allow this anti-democratic extremism to be normalized.** Rep. Nearman’s continued presence as a legislator in the Oregon House is an affront to everything we believe in as Oregonians.

“The rioters Rep. Nearman allowed in the building attacked Oregon State Police. They are tied to extremist white supremacist movements. These actions are an assault on the safety and wellbeing of everyone who was present that day, especially our BIPOC staff and legislators, whose health and safety were threatened. And many of us are still working through that trauma today. There must be accountability, and it starts with denouncing white supremacy and bigotry in our Capitol.

“Nearman should have resigned in January, the moment that security footage confirmed his involvement and assistance in the attack. Given today’s charges, it’s clear that he’s got to go. I urge every one of my colleagues, in every caucus, to call this out for what it is and join me in demanding that Nearman resign immediately.”

###