



**REPRESENTATIVE MIKE NEARMAN  
OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
HOUSE DISTRICT 23**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Wednesday, February 25, 2015

**CONTACT:** Rep. Mike Nearman  
503-986-1423  
[Rep.MikeNearman@state.or.us](mailto:Rep.MikeNearman@state.or.us)

**Rep. Mike Nearman Submits Priority Bill Request To Allow Independent Oversight  
Of Executive Branch**

*Proposal Would Grant Legislature The Authority To Appoint Independent Counsel To  
Investigate Illegal Activity*

**Salem, OR** – Representative Mike Nearman (R-Independence) today announced he has submitted a request to use a priority bill that would increase transparency and oversight of the executive branch by allowing the Legislature to appoint independent counsel to investigate accusations of illegal or unethical activity within the Oregon governor’s office.

“The events that have unfolded over the past months have been historic and have left Oregonians, myself included, with many questions and concerns about checks and balances within state government,” said Rep. Nearman. “The draft request that I’ve submitted is a first step in addressing some of those concerns by allowing a special prosecutor or outside counsel to conduct thorough and independent reviews of our executive branch.”

Rep. Nearman’s priority bill would allow for the appointment of an independent counsel by petition of 40 percent of the members of the House of Representatives and 40 percent of the members of the Senate. The petition would include the individual named independent counsel; the individual(s) subject to investigation; and, a description of the scope of the investigation. The independent counsel would operate out of either the Office of the Attorney General or the Office of the Secretary of State, at the election of the counsel.

Rep. Nearman’s proposal is still being put into statutory language by Legislative Counsel. He will release additional details once the draft is finalized.

###