

E. WERNER RESCHKE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DISTRICT 56
Klamath and Lake Counties



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 9, 2021

TO: Timothy G. Sekerak
Chief Clerk of the House
State Capitol Building, H271
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation on HB 2030

Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I wanted to clarify my NO Vote on HB 2030, held on Oregon's House Floor (April 9, 2021). HB 2030 states the intent of the legislature is to provide "political equity" to several groups of people in Oregon, but not for all. HB 2030 replaces the term "political equality", found in current statutes, with the term with "political equity".

There is a fundamental difference between political equality and political equity; it is not a distinction without a difference. During the debate on the House Floor, equity was described as "treating people fairly based on their needs and requirements." The carrier of the bill stated the goal of HB 2030 was to provide equity in outcomes. The only way a government achieve these ends is to use its power. In other words, the groups mentioned in the bill must be granted an additional privilege or privileges not available to all citizens of Oregon.

This new privilege of political equity violates Article I, Section 20 of the Oregon Constitution which states:

Equality of privileges and immunities of citizens. No law shall be passed granting to any citizen or class of citizens privileges, or immunities, which, upon the same terms, shall not equally belong to all citizens.

In my view, this bill violates the Oregon Constitution. That is the reason for my NO vote.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Werner Reschke". The signature is stylized and fluid.

E. WERNER RESCHKE
State Representative, HD 56