

The vote on the floor on January 14, 2019 regarding HCR 11 was a difficult vote for me. On one hand, we certainly want rules to protect anyone from any sort of harassment, but on the other hand, as we pass these rules, we must in fact follow the rules that we pass.

My no vote on this issue was threefold. First, our own state constitution says that we cannot pass bills or resolutions in an organizational meeting, which is exactly what we were doing. Mason's also made it clear that the constitution takes precedence over all other agendas. The body ignored both.

Secondly, it was made clear on the floor that this legislation violates Federal law.

Third, any time the body passes a law that is retroactive, I will protest the issue and vote against the legislation.

The vote on this day did all three. This vote was a slap in the face to Oregonians that require us to live within the laws and rules we pass. We violated the Constitution of the State of Oregon not because we should for the benefit of the people, but because we could to move an agenda.

The response given by our legal counsel was certainly an embarrassment to the legal profession, stating that the Constitution could be usurped because of precedence was appalling. Shame on the Senate for passing this legislation.

Senator Alan Olsen