

**FLOYD PROZANSKI**  
**STATE SENATOR**



**OREGON STATE SENATE**  
**900 COURT ST NE**  
**SALEM, OREGON 97301**

**DISTRICT 4**

503-986-1704 - Capitol

541-342-2447 - District

Email: sen.floydprozanski@state.or.us

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Vote Explanation

HCR 11

I voted yes on HCR 11 because I believe it is a step forward for the legislative branch to ensure a safe workplace for all who participate in the legislative process at the Oregon State Capitol.

During the 2018 regular session, the Legislature requested the Oregon Law Commission (OLC) to conduct a review of the legislative branch's current policies, procedures and practices for a harassment-free workplace at the State Capitol. OLC was also asked to make recommendations on how to improve those policies, procedures, and practices to ensure the State Capitol is "a model workplace where everyone feels safe and can work without fear of harassment."

HCR 11 provides two improvements to the current policies. The first is to extend the statute of limitations (SOL) from one year to four years. This change will allow for those who believe they have been harassed additional time to report harassment.

The second change pertains to the informal complaint process. It exempts individuals involved in the incidents from confidentiality restrictions. I understand this standard is different from the formal complaint process, but House members negotiated this change to allow the Resolution to be passed with the necessary rules suspension.

As a member of the Joint Committee on Capitol Culture, I understand HCR 11 is a temporary fix and that the Joint Committee will review, discuss and consider all of the OLC's workgroup's recommendations through the committee process including taking public testimony. Further, the changes made in HCR 11 will be revisited by the Joint Committee.

I expect the committee to complete its work in short fashion and that the Legislature will vote on a new resolution that will incorporate the adoption of many, if not all, of the recommendations put forward in the OLC's State Capitol Workplace Harassment Work Group Report.

Floyd Prozanski