

Mark Meek
State Representative
District 40



House of Representatives

June 19, 2019

Timothy G. Sekerak
Chief Clerk, Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court Street NE, Room H-271
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: SB 1013 B Vote Explanation

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I voted no on Senate Bill 1013 B and wish to explain my vote.

For decades, Oregonians have debated whether the death penalty is appropriate and for which crimes, if any, it should apply. This is a necessary debate – but it is one in which all Oregon voters should have the opportunity to weigh-in on the ballot. I cannot support SB 1013 B because the changes it would make to the death penalty warrant greater consideration and debate among Oregon’s voters.

Furthermore, I remain concerned with how SB 1013 B will impact ongoing and future criminal matters – including the trial of Jeremy Kyle Christian, who murdered two people on a MAX train in Portland in May 2017. One of the victims – Ricky John Best – has a son who testified in opposition to SB 1013 B and how it will restrict the jury’s ability to enforce justice in his father’s death. These are compelling arguments.

Criminal justice is a complex issue. As a State Representative I have supported legislation to reform youth sentencing laws and direct more resources towards rehabilitation programs that would reduce incarceration. I will continue to support Oregon’s Justice Reinvestment Initiative and its goals of reducing recidivism and prison use while protecting the public and ensuring justice is served.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Meek".

Mark Meek

State Representative – Oregon House District 40