

The merits of this bill make it very challenging for me to cast my no vote today. The prohibition in this bill helps to provide closure and healing to those who may have lost a loved one. I love the idea that we will be addressing something that should have been addressed long ago. That being said I must still cast a no vote for the following reason.

The Constitution of the State of Oregon clearly states that “The deliberations of each house, of committees of each house or joint committees and of committees of the whole, shall be open...” This provision was put in place to ensure accountability and transparency to the people of the state that their Legislature was working in their best interest. The virtual format that is being used does not provide for an honest, open, and transparent discussion on the matters of this state.

The “People’s Work” should be considered an essential service and there for accessible in person. Because the people are still being denied their constitutional right to participate and lobby their legislature in an open manner, I cannot legitimize this session with a yes vote no matter the merit of the bill, and there for had to vote no.