

I wanted to clarify my no vote on this measure. I fully support and endorse the concept behind this bill. In fact, were it any other session I would have gladly voted for it. We have a duty and responsibility as a society to protect our most vulnerable. Even with this in mind however, I have taken a firm position this session that it is an illegitimate one as the people have been barred from their legislative process. As such I have voted no on every piece of legislation that has come to the floor, no matter the merit of the argument.

I had asked to be excused to avoid having any “No’s” on the bill so as to not give the idea that any Oregonian truly disagrees with the merits of this measure, but the Majority Party would not allow it. I was fully prepared to be absent and have it go against my record to once again avoid that terrible misperception. Instead, the Democrat Majority used Parliamentary procedures to force my presence on the floor. It is disgusting that they have chosen to politicize such an important issue. Standing on my principle and through the forceful and abusive hand of government, I regretfully was forced to cast a no vote.