

Here is my vote explanation to the motion to pull SJR 202 to the floor.

Below are points I was interrupted from verbally expressing on the floor during “Vote Explanations” after the vote on the motion to pull SJR 202 to the floor. Vote explanations generally contain reasons given by a member as to why the member voted one way or another. These explanations are simply statements or laments as to a member’s own personal reasons for voting for or against a motion. Later, after my explanation was aborted by the Senate President, I was told that a “written” Vote Explanation would be acceptable, which adds more mystery as to why the “verbal” version would be gavelled down and stopped. Maybe it’s because the written ones are ultimately less likely to ever be read, while the explanations stated on the floor might get more attention.

It is a shame that we couldn’t debate [SJR 202](#) yesterday. Crime is reaching record levels and causing Oregonians today to feel more unsafe in their homes than they did just 2 years ago. That is in part due to the Governor’s decision to release violent criminals from prison early.

This week, public polling showed that 56% of Oregonians disapprove of the Governor’s decision to release violent criminals out of prison. Yet, the Governor continues her plan unchecked. Oregonians don’t like this kind of overreach.

This bill would have asked voters if they want their democratically elected representatives in the Senate to represent their voices in these decisions.

Right now, Oregon is only one of three states without any check on the Governor’s power to release criminals from prison early. This reform would have provided robust accountability and oversight.

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