



Senate Majority Office

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DO YOUR JOB, DAY 6: Senate Majority Leader Kate Lieber Calls for Republicans to Return to Debate on Senate Floor

Senate Republican Leader Tim Knopp admits walkout is about abortion and gun safety legislation

SALEM, Ore - Over the weekend, **Senator Tim Knopp (R-Bend)** finally admitted that the Republican walkout is [about their opposition to bills protecting abortion rights and advancing gun safety](#). Republicans previously claimed they were walking out on their jobs because of a sincere objection to the Senate's process, an objection which was already rebutted by nonpartisan legislative counsel and [the courts](#).

Senate Republicans were elected by their constituents to represent their interests through the committee process and on the Senate Floor. These same constituents [voted overwhelmingly for Measure 113](#), which established penalties for legislators who walk out on their jobs in Salem.

House Republicans have [cited the importance of debating bills](#) on the chamber floor as the reason why they did not walk off the job.

The bills protecting [abortion rights](#) and establishing [common sense gun safety](#) laws went through the normal process for all legislation considered by the Legislature, which included many opportunities for Senate Republicans to have their perspectives heard. The next opportunity for them to talk about these bills is during public debate on the floor of the Oregon Senate. But, to do that, they need to show up for work.

"Since they have now admitted their objections are with the reproductive health bill, I invite my Republican colleagues to do their jobs and engage in a debate about it on the Senate floor. If they hold their beliefs strongly enough to engage in these undemocratic tactics, they should feel confident defending their positions to their colleagues and the public," **said Senate Majority Leader Kate Lieber (D-Beaverton & SW Portland)**.

The Reproductive Health and Access to Care Bill ([HB 2002](#)) protects Oregonians' right to make their own decisions about their own bodies, without interference from the government. It simply restores the abortion rights Oregonians had under *Roe v. Wade*, expands insurance coverage for gender-affirming care, and protects Oregon medical providers' ability to give the best, most appropriate care to their patients.

The goals of the Gun Violence Prevention Package ([HB 2005](#)) are to improve community safety, help law enforcement do their jobs, and keep guns out of the wrong hands. The package cracks down on untraceable "ghost guns," raises the minimum age for purchasing most guns – like semiautomatic weapons – to 21, and gives the power to decide where people can carry guns back to local communities. The bill balances community safety and individual liberty – an Oregon solution to a growing challenge.

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