

Senate Majority Office

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## DO YOUR JOB: Unconstitutional Walkout Undermines Government Transparency

**SALEM, Ore** - Four weeks ago, Senate Republicans and one Independent abandoned their jobs and the people of Oregon by refusing to show up for work. Since then, ten Senators have <u>violated the constitutional amendment passed by voters in 2022</u> to stop walkouts. The Senate Minority Leader and other Republicans have repeatedly moved the goalposts during negotiations with legislative leadership and the Governor, never providing a realistic path for their return to work.

Now, these Senators are willing to take yet another month off from their constitutional duties, effectively killing hundreds of bipartisan bills without public debate or votes, which would undermine transparency in the public process and <u>disrespect the will of Oregon voters</u>.

In response, **Senate Majority Leader Kate Lieber (D – Beaverton & SW Portland)** released the following statement:

"Our message is the same as it was on day one: these Senators need to do their jobs. The people of Oregon have to show up to work every day, their legislators should too.

"Disagreement is a part of our democracy, but walking out on the job and holding the entire state hostage isn't fair to the people of Oregon.

"Oregonians are tired of walkouts. Out of respect for the people of this state and our basic duties as lawmakers, we should be holding public, transparent votes on every bill and budget that comes to the Senate floor."