

# 10 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE FREEDOM FOUNDATION'S OREGON DIRECTOR, MIKE NEARMAN



The anti-worker Freedom Foundation (aka Opt-Out Today) hired Oregon State Representative Mike Nearman to head their failing Oregon effort. Here are the top ten things you need to know about Mike Nearman:

## 1 SERVES AS A KEY LEADER OF AN ANTI-IMMIGRANT HATE GROUP

The Southern Poverty Law Center designated Oregonians for Immigration Reform, which has ties to white supremacists, as “the most prominent anti-immigrant group in [Oregon]”.

## 2 REGULARLY DEMONIZES IMMIGRANTS

Nearman made a speech in the State House saying that the body needed to protect Oregonians “from diseases carried by illegal aliens, especially those from third world countries where one would expect the diseases are more readily carried.”

## 3 TOO EXTREME EVEN FOR REPUBLICANS

After his primary contest against a more moderate Republican, The Conservative Republican Defense Fund warned voters in a mailer that “electing Mike Nearman for our state representative is bad for our health.”

## 4 OPPOSED EXPANDING HEALTH CARE FOR LOW-INCOME OREGONIANS

He also opposed compelling insurance companies to cover people with pre-existing conditions, equating it with auto insurance companies forced to cover “junk cars.”

## 5 REGULARLY VOTED AGAINST WORKING FAMILIES

Voted against mandatory paid sick leave for employees, providing school lunches to children from low-income families and against increased education funding. He also spoke against legislation that would increase the minimum wage for working families.

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## SUPPORTED BY A FRINGE ANTI-CHOICE GROUP

His key supporters are extreme right-wing organizations, including the largest anti-choice organization in Oregon, Oregon Right to Life, which opposes in vitro fertilization and has asserted that abortion causes breast cancer.

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## FUNDED BY AN EXTREME ANTI-LGBTQ GROUP

He is supported by the Oregon Family Council (OFC), the largest anti-LGBTQ group in the state. Nearman was one of two representatives to oppose bi-partisan legislation that would update anti-LGBTQ language in Oregon Statute.

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## OPPOSED FUNDING FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

Nearman opposed increased funding for public safety including the Polk County sheriff's department. The local newspaper called Nearman's position “unconscionable,” and that his politics “have already proved destructive to Polk County.”

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## OPPOSES COMMON SENSE GUN REFORM

Nearman strongly opposes all attempts at gun control and voted against a popular Oregon bill that would expand background checks to private firearm sales.

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## HAS A HISTORY OF ETHICS COMPLAINTS FILED AGAINST HIM

Nearman has had multiple ethics complaints filed against him including one by his Republican Colleague, Brian Boquist, for improperly coordinating with Oregon Right to Life.



## BONUS

Despite working for a group that wants to gut workers' benefits, he and his wife enjoy all the benefits of the union including wage increases and a pension but do not pay any of the dues.



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