

10 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE “FREEDOM” FOUNDATION’S FORMER STAFFER, MIKE NEARMAN:



The now-disgraced politician came on board the “Freedom” Foundation in 2019 as Oregon Director then moved to a position as Senior Fellow. A known extremist, Nearman would become a key player in the violent attack on Oregon’s Capitol building at the end of 2020.

Separate videos exposed him both for apparently instructing activists at a “Freedom” Foundation office on how to gain entry to the Capitol and for opening a locked door to protesters the day of the breach. Nearman resigned from the organization in 2021 after the footage was released. Here’s a look back at the type of individual the “Freedom” Foundation selects for their senior positions:

1

FIRST LEGISLATOR IN OREGON HISTORY TO BE EXPELLED

Nearman was criminally charged, pled guilty, and expelled from the state legislature for his role in the violent breach of Oregon’s Capitol building in December of 2020, where police officers and journalists were injured.

2

SERVED 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]”.

3

REGULARLY DEMONIZED 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.”

4

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.”

5

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.”

6

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.

7

SUPPORTED BY A FRINGE ANTI-CHOICE GROUP

His key supporters were 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.

8

FUNDED BY AN EXTREME ANTI-LGBTQ GROUP

He was 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.

9

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.”

10

OPPOSED COMMON SENSE GUN REFORM

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

LEARN MORE AT
ACCOUNTABLENW.ORG

