

DWAYNE YUNKER
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 3



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 9, 2025

[REDACTED]

CC: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I was notified on April 2 by [REDACTED] that you have opened an investigation under Legislative Branch Rule 27 related to complaints arising from two remonstrances I delivered in mid-March. I am writing to provide a statement in response.

To be clear, my statement does not indicate agreement with the validity of Rule 27. I have serious concerns that this rule may infringe upon rights protected under the U.S. Constitution—specifically, the First Amendment (freedom of speech) and the Due Process Clause of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments. Rule 27 is vulnerable to constitutional challenge if it disciplines political speech, targets specific viewpoints, or lacks procedural fairness.

I was surprised to learn that Rule 27 is being used to investigate a legislator's remarks during official remonstrances. Under Article IV, Section 9 of the Oregon Constitution, members of the Legislative Assembly are not to be questioned elsewhere for words spoken in debate. This constitutional protection exists precisely to preserve free and open legislative discourse.

The first complaint relates to my March 17 House floor remonstrance reading of a sexually explicit passage from a public-school library book while opposing Senate Bill 1098. Ironically, the very material described as creating a "hostile work environment" by staff is the same content that some legislators want to prevent parents from shielding children from in schools.

The second complaint relates to my March 27 House floor remonstrance expressing my concerns about House Bill 3014 and its implications, including putting tampons in boys' bathrooms. I expressed my views grounded in my biblical beliefs about male and female, as God created us. Any attempt to censor or punish me for these views would be a direct violation of my religious freedom.

In conclusion, I find this investigation not only unwarranted, but emblematic of the constitutional issues embedded in Rule 27. This rule is in need of serious reform.

Sincerely,

Dwayne Yunker, State Representative, Oregon House District 3