

## S. Scott McDowell

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**From:** Senator Bruce Starr <orstateleg@service.govdelivery.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 12, 2025 6:24 PM  
**To:** admin@ci.brownsville.or.us  
**Subject:** Reflecting on the loss of Charlie Kirk + praying for our country



### **Reflecting on the loss of Charlie Kirk + praying for our country**

My heart weeps for our nation.

Charlie Kirk's killing demonstrates how far we have fallen as a country, as human beings, and as fellow neighbors. This week, our nation witnessed the first public assassination in decades. Whether it is the rise of social media, the new form of tribalism politics, or society's inability to sit down with those with

whom we disagree - **we have hit a breaking point as a country.** One may call it a turning point.

All Charlie Kirk ever wanted was open dialogue. He wanted young people to think critically and find themselves immersed in the spirit of debate. **He gave his opinion with integrity, facts, and clarity, yet allowed people space to disagree and do the same.**

He dedicated his life to seeking truth, defending it, and empowering others to ask questions to find their voice, and *he was killed for it.*

**There is no place for political violence in our society. Whether aimed at Governor Shapiro for his views on Gaza, Speaker emerita Melissa Hortman for her political views, Charlie Kirk for standing strong for traditional values, or any other public figure,** it must be condemned, and it should absolutely, unequivocally be stopped in its tracks. We cannot continue down this road of intellectual intolerance.

Anyone, anywhere who celebrates the killing or threatening of public figures for their political or social views must be exposed and rejected.

Perpetrators must be prosecuted and held accountable for their actions, regardless of the political persuasion of either the victim or the target. The rule of law must prevail.

**Heinous killings and acts of violence do not have to define who we are in a nation.** I firmly believe the vast majority of Americans are horrified by this wave of unprecedented violence. **There is far more that unites us than divides us.**

Our nation needs to heal. We need to open our hearts once again and make our way back to our common humanity. To get from behind the computer screen and get to the kitchen table or the town square to discuss our differences. **To agree to disagree.** This is the legacy of Charlie Kirk.

A young man's life was cut short. A young wife is now a widow. Two children are now without a father. He was killed for just doing his job and having an opinion that some happen to find offensive.

Today, I pray for our country. Today, I mourn for the Kirk family.

Tomorrow, I will show up to discuss, debate, and represent many of the values Charlie espoused in a civil and respectful manner, working to persuade my fellow Oregonians and Americans that those values are the ones that will provide us security, prosperity, and hope for the future of the nation.

**Bruce Starr**

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