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**STUDENTS PROTEST AFTER SALEM-KEIZER
DISTRICT TELLS TEACHERS TO REPORT ...**

TEEN SEX

Natalie Pate Salem Statesman Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

Salem-Keizer teachers and staff recently were told that when they learn, or suspect, a student is sexually active, they must report it to law enforcement or state officials.

Some students, teachers and parents are upset with the requirement, so much so that more than 550 people signed a digital petition to Paul Kylo, the school board chairman, demanding the practice be stopped.

The requirement falls under Oregon's mandatory reporting and child abuse laws. They're meant to protect children, but the district's clarification of the law is being criticized for being applied to sexually active, consenting teens.

Under Oregon law, any person younger than 18 is unable to



More than 550 people have signed a digital petition

Oregon Legislature Could Take Up Mandatory Reporting Issue

By [CHRIS LEHMAN](#) · NOV 7, 2017

An Oregon lawmaker said she'll introduce a bill next year to clarify that consensual sex between teenagers does not need to be reported to state authorities.

Democratic Sen. Sara Gelser made the announcement in a Facebook post Tuesday.



Sara Gelser
last Tuesday



While I still believe it is an overreach to require staff to report consensual sexual activity among youth, I am introducing a fix in the February session that will make it perfectly clear that consensual sex between teenagers does not need to be reported to law enforcement or DHS by teachers or parents. This provision will be added to a bill I was already drafting to address problems with responding to abuse and neglect of severely and persistently mentally ill adults and those seeking substance abuse treatment.



9 things to know about Salem-Keizer's requirement to report teen sex

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This comes in response to a policy in the state's second-largest school district that requires all district employees to report cases of sexual activity involving students under age 18—even when it's consensual. The policy has come under fire from critics who say it could prevent students from approaching teachers for information about sexual health.

Salem-Keizer Public Schools spokesperson Lillian Govus [told OPB's Think Out Loud Tuesday](#) that it's up to lawmakers to fix the mandatory reporting law.

"We have to follow their law," she said. "And we cannot be the ones to judge the intent of our lawmakers."

Govus said the district applauds efforts by students to change the law.

Other large school districts [contacted by Salem's Statesman-Journal newspaper](#) said they do not interpret the current mandatory reporting requirement as applying to sexual activity among consenting teenagers.