



from the

Senate Republican Office

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Feb. 12, 2018

Tayloranne Gillespie
Communications Director
541-554-6631

Senate Republicans vote 'no' on SB 1540 A

SALEM, OR. - Today, Senate Republicans voted against [SB 1540 A](#), which changes mandatory reporting standards for Oregonians required to report sexual contact between students under the age of 18. Of specific concern, the bill exempts reporting sexual contact amongst students between the ages of 12 and 21, as long as the age difference is less than 3 years, and there is no suspicion of forced contact, intimidation, or coercion.

"We understand that under the current laws, school staff would have to report any suspected sexual contact between students under the age of 18," said Herman Baertschiger (R-Grants Pass). "But, the conversation around allowing 12-year-olds to consent to sexual contact is alarming."

"Last Friday, teenagers in the Joint Student Success Committee discussed at length that bullying and coercion are being unchecked in our schools," said Senator Brian Boquist (R-Dallas). "We need to fully understand what the implications are of being complicit in sexual activity among children as young as 12."

Senate Republicans are open to bipartisan discussions on how to properly address the issue to ensure that children are being protected, and mandatory reporters are aware of their responsibilities.

###