



from the office

of

Sen. Kim Thatcher

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Thatcher proposal protects free speech, ensures campus safety

SALEM, Ore.-Keizer Republican state Sen. Kim Thatcher has a plan to help protect free speech and ensure student safety on college campuses.

[Senate Bill 540](#) will require community colleges and public universities to expel students found criminally guilty of violent rioting.

The bill ensures peaceful protestors are safe and that they are better able to exercise their free speech rights. The senator is running the legislation in response to concerns of safety on campuses after reports of violent protests.

Thatcher released the following statement:

"I have exercised my constitutional rights to protest and speak out on issues close to my heart and I am a huge supporter of the First Amendment.

"Free speech protects us all and ensures we can exercise the critical right to share our truth. Violence is not free speech. My bill will help protect students who are peacefully protesting from bad apples in the crowd who exploit peaceful protests to engineer violent riots.

"Too often, peaceful protestors are blamed for violent behavior of bad actors within their own movement and this will help mitigate that."

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