

The Oregonian/OregonLive # The Oregonian/OregonLive and Hillary Borrud The Oregonian/OregonLive # Oregon labor regulators have found "substantial evidence" of sexual harassment at the state Capitol, concluding that lawmakers and administrators have known about it for years and did little to stop it. # The Bureau of Labor and Industries released its findings Thursday after a five-month investigation, as well as a laundry list of allegations gleaned from witness interviews conducted by agency investigators, legislative analysts and a lawyer hired by the Legislature to investigate the harassment claims. # The report concludes that the most powerful lawmakers and administrators in the Capitol mishandled, downplayed and ignored allegations of sexual harassment, including inappropriate touching, sexually suggestive language and the lopsided power dynamics that enabled the behavior. # Much of the report centers on improper behavior by former Sen. Jeff Kruse, who resigned in March after news reports and an outside investigation revealed he may have sexually harassed as many as 15 women working at the Capitol, and that the behavior went on for years despite repeated warnings. At least two state senators, a lobbyist and two interns were among the complainants, and the report includes new details on their allegations. # But the agency also concluded that sexual harassment was "not limited to" the Roseburg Republican. For the first time, for example, the BOLI report describes allegations by Senate President Peter Courtney's former office manager that he gave her an ultimatum to "either resign or be fired or be demoted" because he disapproved of her dating a House lawmaker. The Oregonian/OregonLive, though a public records request, obtained copies of both her resignation letter and an agreement for her to work from home for five months in exchange for a job recommendation and her agreement not