

" the statement said. " But it is utterly false to conclude that I have knowingly allowed people to be harassed in the Capitol, and I dispute how the report has characterized my conversations about incidents of harassment. On the contrary, I have been very clear that we need to be a model workplace and continue to do everything in my power to improve the Legislature's culture. " # The workplace regulator's investigation dovetailed with the national #MeToo moment that has put sexual harassment into the public consciousness and ended the careers of some of the biggest names in business and industry. Statehouses across the country have also been grappling with the issue. An investigation by The Associated Press this summer found that dozens of lawmakers have been forced from office, removed from leadership roles, reprimanded or publicly accused of sexual misconduct. The news organization unearthed roughly 70 complaints from about two dozen states and nearly \$3 million in sexual harassment settlements. But the actual figures are almost certainly higher, the report found, because many states refused to turn over any information or claimed there were no public records available. # Avakian's complaint also named seven other individuals, including the Legislature's human resources chief and top lawyer, plus the entire Legislature and Department of Administrative Services, which handles human resources for much of state government. # In August, a Multnomah County judge ordered the Legislature to comply with subpoenas for documents and testimony in the sexual harassment investigation. The Legislature had sought to block those subpoenas, arguing that the information would jeopardize the privacy of people who had complained about misconduct to higher-ups at the Legislature. # Based on the investigative findings, BOLI's civil rights division could work with the Legislature to determine