

Parent-notification bill passes senate

SALEM (AP) — A measure that would require doctors to notify parents before performing abortions on their minor daughters passed the Oregon Senate on Tuesday.

The bill, SB1126, was approved 18-11 and moves to the House.

The measure requires physicians to give parents or guardians 48 hours' notice before performing abortions on girls under 18.

Republican leaders have said they generally want to avoid contentious social issues such as gay rights and abortion during this legislative session.

However, Senate President Gordon Smith pushed the parental notice bill, saying the Legislature ought to take up a measure that helps parents be involved in their children's lives.

Supporters of the bill termed it a reasonable step to give parents the right to know if their daughters are undergoing a risky medical procedure.

"Abortion on a minor is a serious medical procedure. It is a time of vulnerability, emotional stress and a very strong desire for support," said Sen. Stan Bunn, R-Newberg. "Minors who are involved in this situation are not in the best position to make the best decision."

Smith said the measure will foster family communication and reduce abortions.

"I think it's important we build this bridge to help families operate," said the Pendleton Republican. "I will err on the side of life."

But opponents said parental notice laws will endanger the lives of teens who are in abusive homes and afraid to tell their

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— GORDON SMITH
Senate President

parents they are pregnant.

"It is a deceptive and dangerous piece of legislation," said Sen. Randy Leonard, D-Portland.

Sen. Jeannette Hamby said lawmakers should not try to legislate family relationships.

"This bill is not about loving our children," said Hamby. "If you think that we are so powerful that we can mandate communication, you are wrong. You are dead wrong."

Bunn said included in the measure is a way for teens from abusive or dysfunctional homes to escape the notice requirement.

The measure would exempt a girl if she signed an affidavit stating at least one of her parents was mentally ill or drug addicted.

Other exemptions would be allowed if the teen stated she was or was likely to become the victim of abuse. In that case, the state Children's Services Division would be required to investigate the abuse allegations.

Sen. Ron Cease, D-Portland, said the opt-out provision doesn't help teens and encourages them to lie to avoid notifying their parents.

"You have young people, in many cases, who are being abused," Cease said. "You assume you are giving they young person an out, but I say you are not."

Information on Oregon colleges available toll-free

Jamie Pope
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Deciding which college or university to attend is often difficult. The Oregon State System of Higher Education is trying to make that choice a little easier.

A new 800 phone line and e-mail address is designed to increase student access to information about the state's eight public institutions of higher education.

Callers can request a brochure that highlights each college and university and outlines more than 300 undergraduate-degree programs. The service also provides financial aid and admissions information.

"The brochure will be particularly helpful in matching a student's lifestyle and interests with the variety of choices among the state's public higher education institutions," said Chancellor Joe Cox, CEO of the state system.

The Office of School Relations in Eugene started the service in April. It will end in June, but may restart in the fall, he said.

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— CHANCELLOR JOE COX
CEO Oregon State System of Higher Education

The service provides students with information about the following colleges and universities: Eastern Oregon State College, Oregon Health and Sciences University, Oregon Institute of Technology, Oregon State University, Portland State University, Southern Oregon State College, University of Oregon and Western Oregon State College.

The phone number is 1-800-470-9678 and the e-mail address is educate@osshe.edu.

Minister's legacy survives his death

Abe Estimada
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

University graduate Jon Smith could never win an argument with campus minister Dave Lee.

"He always had the big picture," Smith said of Lee. "The way he related to people — he was such the diplomat. You couldn't win a fight with him because he gave you no ground to stand on. He loved people. You couldn't fight that."

Students and staff members recall that Lee, the director of Campus Crusade for Christ, the largest Christian group on campus, was a minister who gave money to families in need and a father who sang to his children before they went to bed at night.

Lee, 37, died of cancer March 19. He is survived by a family of six and a ministry of more than 100 students.

Lee arrived in Eugene in 1981, and became director of



LEE

Campus Crusade for Christ in 1991. During his 14 years at the University, he founded Jesus Week, an event that brings the various

Christian groups on campus together.

Jesus Week, which has been held annually since 1990, exposes students to Christian beliefs through a variety of speakers, public forums and worship services.

Lee spent much of his time ministering to the University's fraternities and sororities. A member of Delta Tau Delta, he became a Christian while a student at UCLA, said Dan Morgan, the interim director for Campus Crusade.

Morgan said Lee told him

that only once since Lee arrived at the University, had he been turned down to speak at a fraternity or a sorority.

Lee also was part of a group that founded the Acorn House, an AIDS hospice in Eugene. Morgan said he did not find out that Lee was involved with the AIDS hospice until after his death.

"I found out through others," Morgan said. "He was not one to tell. He was not just a messenger, but he was also very compassionate. He looked at AIDS patients as modern-day lepers rejected by society."

About 800 people attended Lee's memorial service at First Baptist Church on March 22. Morgan said he was amazed at how many people Lee knew and came into contact with.

"Students who I didn't know would come up to me and ask, 'How's Dave doing?' I didn't know what to tell them," he said.

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