

News

East Lansing lawmakers call on MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon to resign

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East Lansing lawmakers are calling on Michigan State University President Lou Anna Simon to resign. In this photo she attends the second day of Larry Nassar's sentencing at the Ingham County Circuit Court in Lansing on Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2018. (Neil Blake | MLive.com)

By [Emily Lawler | elawler@mlive.com](mailto:elawler@mlive.com)

LANSING, MI -- The state lawmakers who represent East Lansing, home of Michigan State University, are calling on the school's president to resign over its handling of the Larry Nassar sexual abuse case.

Nassar, who practiced medicine and was highly regarded at MSU, has pleaded guilty to 10 counts of criminal sexual conduct in two counties. More than 100 women who say they were abused by him are submitting statements or speaking at his sentencing hearing in Ingham County this week.

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House Democratic Leader Rep. Sam Singh, D-East Lansing, and Sen. Curtis Hertel, Jr., D-East Lansing, issued a joint statement calling for her resignation.

"It is clear that a lack of leadership amongst Michigan State University's highest ranks allowed victims to suffer in silence for far too long. We owe it to every survivor who had to endure this horrific torture to not only bring justice to the perpetrator, but also ensure that changes are made at the university to prevent this from ever happening again. The current leadership of Michigan State University is clearly unable to handle that responsibility or help students and the university community rebuild," the lawmakers said.

"In order for the victims, our community and our state to truly heal and move forward, and to create a culture where all victims are heard, a change in leadership must be made. We call for the immediate resignation of MSU President Simon. In addition to President Simon's immediate removal, we continue to call on the legislature to exercise its oversight authority over the university until all those responsible are held accountable."

Singh and Hertel join a growing chorus of lawmakers who have sought Simon's resignation. The first was House Speaker Tom Leonard, an MSU alumnus who called for her ouster in December.

Also on Thursday, Sen. Margaret O'Brien, R-Portage, called for Simon's resignation.



David Eggert 
@DavidEggert00 

State Sen. Margaret O'Brien (R) rips into MSU today over handling of Nassar situation, calls for Simon to resign. But stops short of demanding legislative oversight hearings. Says Schuette should investigate b/c has power of law enforcement #mileg

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And Rep. Jeremy Moss, D-Southfield, added his voice to those calling for her to step down.



Senator Jeremy Moss 
@JeremyAllenMoss 

I'm proud to be a Michigan State Spartan but am disheartened by the actions of its administrators in failing to protect young women from assault.

President Simon must resign to show the victims that the university is serious about changing its culture & rebuilding trust.

3:12 PM · Jan 18, 2018 

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Gretchen Whitmer, a Democrat who is running for governor, has also called for Simon to resign.

Nassar's victims in court statements have been adamant about holding the university and Simon herself accountable for the doctor's actions. Simon showed up to watch the court proceedings, saying she wanted to listen to the victims. Some of them confronted her in the courtroom on Wednesday.

Lindsey Lemke, who was assaulted by Nassar when she was a member of the MSU gymnastics team, told reporters Simon was responsible.

"I feel she's trying to manipulate us, make us feel that she's not responsible when she is responsible, 100%, as president of the university," Lemke said.

Newspaper editorials have also called for Simon to resign.

Simon has served as president of the university since 2004.

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