

TO: Chair Williamson, Vice -Chairs Gorsek and Sprenger and Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Nancy Thomas

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2562, scheduled for hearing March 29th

As a member of the American Association of University Women of Oregon, I write this in support of House Bill 2562 and request this letter be included as an exhibit to the HB 2562 hearing, scheduled for March 29, 2019.

It is insufficient to have only one .25 FTE State Title IX Coordinator at the Oregon Department of Education overseeing Title IX enforcement and prevention of gender-based harassment and discrimination in all of Oregon's K-12 schools. This means that school districts are on their own when developing policies for dealing with these important issues, and our state's K - 12 students are also on their own in trying to deal with them. At the present time there are no sample policies about Title IX matters, or investigation toolkits to help witnesses or to deal with police investigations, etc. More information is also needed to let students and staff know about Title IX, and to determine if students and staff really do know what gender-based discrimination means. We need significantly more attention and people resources being paid to authorize and actualize Title IX enforcement and compliance, and prevention of gender-based discrimination, so that our students (and everyone) will get the message that it's NOT okay to harass, bully and take unfair advantage of others.

I urge you to support HB 2562.

Thank you.

Nancy Thomas
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