

To: Chair Williamson, Vice- Chairs Gorsek and Sprenger, and Members of the House
Judiciary Committee
From: Julie Swanson Skinner

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

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.

I have heard many times over the last several years that there is only one 1/4 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 our K-12 schools. This leaves school districts and students on their own trying to deal with these important, sensitive issues. In many cases, AAUW members delivering Title IX materials to schools discovered that the Title IX Coordinator was not aware that they held that position in the school, much less understand their responsibilities.

Title IX reaches a broad range of important matters, including sexual harassment and bullying, athletics, girls only classes, access to STEM and CTE programs and more. It touches not only girls but also boys, members of the LGBTQ and non-binary communities, and staff. Our state has yet to develop state-wide training programs or continuing education programs for school-site Title IX Coordinators. There is no consistent vehicle for sharing resources or communicating with each other. There are not sample policies about Title IX matters, or investigation toolkits, informative posters, or self-audit materials.

Our students understand the difference between adults or systems that tell them one thing but do another. It is imperative to increase the staffing to support Title IX education and enforcement in Oregon. I urge you to support HB 2562!

Respectfully,

Julie Swanson Skinner
Portland, Oregon