



UNIVERSITY OF
OREGON
College of Education

CENTER FOR

THE PREVENTION OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT

March 28, 2019

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

The Center for the Prevention of Abuse and Neglect is in strong support of HB2657. We are a research unit housed at the University of Oregon; part of our charge is to assess and evaluate the impact of sexual assault prevention curricula in the state. Its impact is invaluable and cost effective.

While it makes sense to continue to support intervention efforts – without also the support for prevention, there will never be an end to the people who are victimized by the crimes interpersonal violence. There is a huge disparity in Oregon of the funds that go to intervention rather than prevention. Supporting this bill will help to address that disparity and make it a priority to prevent victims of the future by implementing efforts that make sure victimization never occurs.

The statistics are overwhelming. Our own Oregon-based research reveals that one in three girls and one in six boys in our state will be victimized by some level of sexual abuse or assault in their lifetime. The way to stop victimization is to prevent it through efforts aimed at primary prevention.

HB2657 is an effective step to do just that and has our full support. We ask you to support it too.

Phyllis D. Barkhurst,

Co-Director, Center for the Prevention of Abuse and Neglect

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