



Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force

Testimony in support of HB3077A
Senate Judiciary Committee
Submitted by: Kate Hildebrandt, Campus Coordinator
May 21, 2019

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force, I am writing in support of HB3077A.

SATF is a private, non-profit, non-governmental statewide agency whose mission is to advance a multi-disciplinary, survivor-centered approach to the prevention of and response to sexual violence. Formed in 1999 by the late Attorney General Hardy Myers, in collaboration with statewide leaders, SATF has a proud history of addressing sexual violence in Oregon. The spirit of SATF comes from our membership. Appointed by Attorney General Rosenblum, members serve on 1 of 8 subcommittees including: Campus, Criminal Justice, Legislative & Public Policy, Medical-Forensic, Men's Engagement, Offender Management, Prevention Education, and Victim Response.

Our mission is to advance a multi-disciplinary, survivor-centered approach to the prevention of and response to sexual violence in Oregon. Our goal is to prevent sexual violence from happening in the first place, while simultaneously improving our response efforts to mitigate trauma and ensure the safety and security of all survivors.

According to the Oregon Healthy Teens Survey, 6% of 11th grade students report being physically forced to have sex and 12% of 11th grade students report being coerced to engage in sexual activity. ***That's more than 1 in 10 11th grade students in Oregon who report that they have experienced sexual assault.***

HB3077A will establish necessary, uniform protocols and put systems in place to ensure students in K-12 have access to an education free from harassment and violence. This bill will put necessary structure into place that ensures all staff and students have access to a fair and clear process. Uniform, fair, and accessible processes make it clear to students and communities that violence is unacceptable and affirm that schools are committed to creating safe and supportive spaces for learning.

We know that clear and equitable processes work; we've seen this time and time again on college campuses and in communities. When students understand their rights and know that their school will act to support them, they feel safer and are better able to learn.

This process will also help all students and staff understand their expectations and will encourage healthy and respectful behaviors for all members of the school community. This in turn helps us create safe and positive communities both inside and outside our schools.

We are grateful for the leadership of youth in Oregon for helping develop this bill and urge your support of their efforts by passing HB3077A.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Roland-Schwartz
Executive Director