



March 24, 2021

Chair Bynum, Vice-Chairs Noble and Power, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Oregon, we express our support for House Bill 2400.

Sexual and domestic assaults take a tremendous toll on its victims, particularly on an emotional level. Feelings of deep shame, misplaced blame and continuing fear challenge efforts to come to terms with these events.

This bill seeks to even the balance and give a those who have been subjected to sexual or domestic violence an opportunity to ensure that their cases have been appropriately investigated. There is also an official record of what happened to them. What happened to them is thereby officially recognized and acknowledged, and importantly, respected.

House Bill 2400 is narrowly drawn, allowing police record access unless the provision of the record would compromise an active investigation.

This is also much needed legislation, as victims are often unfortunately denied access to these records for specious reasons or their access is significantly and needlessly delayed.¹ This process implicitly adds another assaultive affront to victims. The law relating to police record access is often complicated and challenging to understand.

We urge your support for House Bill 2400.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trish Garner, JD, MSW
State Public Policy Chair
American Association of University Women of Oregon

¹ Samantha Swindler, A six-month fight for a Police Report, Oregonian, 23 October 2016, https://www.oregonlive.com/portland/2016/10/a_six-month_fight_for_a_police.html.