

Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the Senate Education Committee,

Thank you for your time considering this testimony. My name is Caroline Dockerty and I am a student at the University of Portland and a member of Team Oregon with the Every Voice Coalition, and I urge you to support SB1572, the Campus Sexual Assault Prevention & Support bill.

As a student currently attending school in Oregon, I have seen firsthand the distrust and fear that survivors have when it comes to institutional reporting processes. Many survivors don't feel safe or comfortable sharing their stories. Despite roughly 23,000 Oregon students experiencing sexual violence, 90 to 95 % of these survivors will not report their experiences, and thus not have access to the support and resources that are critical in the aftermath of their traumatic experiences.

SB1572, in Section 2, allows student survivors the access to support from their institution of higher education *despite* their reporting status, meaning there will be no barrier to accessing services in terms of whether one chooses to report the incident or not. This allows the majority of students, those who do not participate in a grievance process, access to majorly important resources and avenues of support. This would be one less thing for survivors to worry about in the overwhelming aftermath of their experience.

In addition to ever important supportive measures for survivors, the main goal in the fight against campus sexual violence is prevention. Section 3 of SB1572 includes both introductory and continuing prevention programs for institutions of higher education to provide education on best practices to prevent campus sexual violence. Not only is it crucial for students to receive initial education about prevention, but to also sustain this education and revisit these prevention measure to maintain a working knowledge of preventative practices so they feel informed and knowledgeable to fight campus sexual violence.

Last but certainly not least, it is imperative that the State of Oregon and institutions of higher education collect meaningful data about the reality of student experiences on campuses across the state. The data collection methods currently employed use data only from students who have gone through the grievance process—which we know majority of student survivor will not do, and thus are being left out of the picture. Employing a campus climate survey with sensitive and intentional question to gain real data is imperative to make meaningful progress in this fight and to better our campuses.

To take huge step toward ending campus sexual violence, I am asking the committee to pass SB1572.

Thank you for your continued work to improve services for students and survivors of violence across Oregon.

Sincerely,

Caroline Dockerty
Every Voice Coalition, Team Oregon Member