

SB1572: Support Testimony  
Peri Joy Long  
Volunteer, The Every Voice Coalition

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

Thank you for your time considering this testimony. My name is Peri Joy Long. I am a junior at Reed College and a volunteer with Every Voice Coalition—a student, young alum and survivor-led nonprofit organization working to address campus sexual violence. I am writing to you today in favor of the passage of SB1572, the Campus Sexual Assault Prevention & Support bill.

Student apprehension and distrust in institutional resources aimed at addressing campus sexual violence is an endemic issue. In fact, only 5-10% of student survivors report through official institutional channels, fearing retaliation and victim blame. The remaining 90-95% of these students are thereby often barred from accessing school-based supportive measures and resources because supportive measures can be contingent upon reporting and/or initiating a grievance process.

Student survivors frequently cite grievance processes as being time intensive and financially, psychologically, and emotionally taxing. Gatekeeping institutional supportive measures by requiring a student to subject themselves to a grievance process perpetuates the cycle of harm incited by the incident and fails to take into account the extent to which privilege (for example these processes are less accessible to students who have to work and/or do not have the financial resources) plays into one's ability to pursue reporting and/or grievance processes in the first place. Every student deserves access to supportive measures, regardless of whether they choose to engage in formal grievance processes. Section 2 of SB1572 makes school-based supportive measures more accessible to the aforementioned 90-95% of student survivors.

Furthermore, the provision in Section 2 requiring institutions to engage in a biennial assessment of the impact of sexual violence, alongside the mandate that this be made public on the institution's website as outlined in Section 4, will help improve institutional transparency and the accuracy of sexual violence data. Moreover, it will yield more accurate, actionable data that will allow us to establish more efficacious prevention programs and supportive measures moving forward.

There is an increasing trend in campus sexual violence. A 2019 national campus climate survey found that rates of campus sexual violence have increased substantially since 2015. The most recent college climate survey I could find published publicly on Reed's website was from 2012. This is data from when I was in 5th-6th grade. We deserve to have accurate, up-to-date data on

sexual violence on our campuses. We deserve to have supportive measures that accurately address the impact sexual violence has on students *today*...not students ten years ago.

I have witnessed firsthand the harm caused by a lack of accessible school-based resources and institutional accountability and transparency. I strongly believe this bill will improve the efficacy and accessibility of post-incident supportive measures to student survivors.

I strongly urge the committee to vote in favor of SB1572. Thank you for your continued work to improve services for students and survivors of violence across Oregon.

Sincerely,  
Peri Joy Long