



Oregon Voices  
PO Box 13175  
Salem, OR 97302

Feb. 7, 2022

Senate Committee on Education  
RE: SB 1472

Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Thomsen, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Oregon Voices in support of SB 1472. I spent my life on college campuses, as an undergraduate and graduate student, as a professor, and for many years as an accreditation visitor for the Northwest Commission on Colleges. I am familiar with the issues that SB 1472 seeks to address, and while the great majority of students I encountered were very responsible in their behavior to others, there was always a persistent minority who weren't.

Nevertheless, in the first years that all young people are away from home and on their own, they encounter situations they have not encountered before, and they do not always make the best decisions, particularly when alcohol is involved.

In my experience, many students understand very little about what the law says about intimate personal behavior. Further, many still tend to think the main danger from sexual abuse is posed by strangers. Many of them are unaware of the ways that their own behavior can lead them to transgress both against propriety and the law. And while students are generally very adept in the use of the internet and social media, they also do not appreciate sufficiently the damage that the virtual world can cause for others and for themselves.

As a society, we have placed almost all of our efforts at curbing abuse, sexual and otherwise, on punishing abusers. On sexual issues, particularly, we know that this barely makes a dent in preventing new abuse; research tells us that only about five percent of new sexual abuse is committed by those persons coming out of incarceration for sex crimes; the other 95% of new crimes are committed by persons who have no record of previous sexual abuse.<sup>1</sup>

Thus, we in Oregon Voices believe that this bill may reduce not only the numbers of victims, but also the number of abusers. After all, they are all our students, and they are all our children.

For Oregon Voices,

Ken Nolley

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<sup>1</sup> Sandler, J. C., Freeman, N. J., & Socia, K. M. (2008). Does a watched pot boil? A time-series analysis of New York State's sex offender registration and notification law. *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*, 14(4), 284–302.  
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