



## Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women

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Support for SB1572  
Campus Sexual Assault Prevention & Supportive Measures  
February 7, 2022  
Senate Committee on Education

*Founded in 1999, the Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women (the Alliance) is a grassroots organization of survivors, advocates, multi-disciplinary community and system-based responders, and allies. The Alliance is dedicated to promoting legislation in Oregon that will protect and empower survivors of domestic and sexual violence.*

The Alliance, along with the Oregon Law Center, the Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, the Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force, The Center for Hope & Safety, and Clackamas Women's Services is pleased to offer joint support for SB1572, which would strengthen primary prevention and supportive measures at Oregon's institutions of higher education.

Thanks to the passage of HB3476 in 2015, college and university responses to sexual harassment have mitigated trauma by offering confidential advocacy services for student survivors – making Oregon the first state in the country to provide students with privileged, trained advocates on campus. Campuses have since reported an increase in historically under-reported populations now coming forward - including LGBTQ students, BIPOC students, male survivors, and immigrant and refugee populations. The legislature has made continued investments in campus sexual assault policies, from protecting students from compulsory participation in hearings to ensuring schools provide students with transparent information about the services and rights available to them.

While we've made many considerable gains in Oregon, prevalence of sexual violence and abuse remain high, with Oregon second in the nation in rates of sexual assault. Despite this information, Oregon still does not have a mechanism to examine the statewide impact of violence on college and university campuses.

SB 1572 provides a technical fix to Oregon House Bill 3415 (2019), and establishes a requirement for Oregon Institutions of Higher Education to offer supportive measures to all students reporting violence, implement prevention policies, and provide further transparency by publishing any available campus climate survey data (in aggregate form) on the school's website. Portions of this technical fix align Oregon law with Federal Title IX and Clery Act requirements already in place.

### **Supportive Measures**

Students that have experienced sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, and/or domestic violence experience many barriers to fully participating in their education. Supportive measures are non-punitive, specialized services (counseling, medical care, academic supports like class changes, housing changes, etc.) that help students remain meaningfully engaged with their education at no

charge to the student.

### **Prevention Policies**

According to public health theory, policy creation and changing organizational practices are two of the most impactful and cost-effective public health tools we have to ensure communities can be free from violence. The "Campus SaVE Act" (VAWA amendments to Clery) requires schools to provide prevention education to students, faculty, and staff. This bill aligns Oregon law with Federal law, and adds additional measures (minimum definition of consent, campus coalitions to inform violence prevention, and adoption of more robust prevention policies) to provides Oregon institutions of higher education the foundation to create effective, comprehensive, and community-specific violence-prevention plans.

### **Campus Climate Surveys**

Requiring schools to conduct campus climate surveys that assess these impacts, prevention work, and trust in community resources supports the work of prevention, advocacy and response by providing the necessary data to inform prevention and intervention strategies, adjust services, and examine effectiveness of current initiatives.

Many of Oregon's schools currently conduct "Campus Climate Surveys", or surveys that assess the impact of sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence or domestic violence in their community. Ensuring that all schools 1) collect this data and 2) do so on a consistent basis gives Oregon a better picture of the impact of sexual harassment and violence experienced by students, allowing for better response and prevention initiatives statewide.

Passage of SB1572 will help Oregon lean into necessary primary prevention strategies on our college campuses and reinforce non-punitive, equitable supportive measures for students. Violence is not inevitable – it is preventable. For this reason we urge your support of SB1572.

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