



American Association of University Professors

Academic Freedom for a Free Society

February 7, 2022

Senator Dembrow, Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Senate Bill 1572 - Support

Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Thomsen and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the more than 6300 members of the American Association of University Professors in Oregon, our collective bargaining chapters at the University of Oregon, Portland State University, Oregon State University, and Oregon Institute of Technology, and our faculty members across Oregon, I ask that you please support SB 1572.

Sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking are unfortunately pervasive in higher education, and have an enormous impact on students, faculty, and staff. This violence can be an impediment to completing a university education, particularly for marginalized and feminine-presenting people.

By investing in prevention and basing strategies on the needs of each institution, SB 1572 takes a holistic approach to address many of the concerns that continue to emerge at universities. All students who have experienced sexual harassment and violence will be eligible for services and support, with the aim of enabling them to continue their education. Importantly, SB 1572 includes a requirement for campus climate surveys to assess the effectiveness of prevention, intervention strategies, and service. This type of sunlight would enable universities to examine what is working and what is not, and work on preventive strategies rather than reactive ones.

Many of our members have long worked passionately to remedy these systemic issues. We expect that SB 1572 will provide our faculty with additional tools and resources to advance this work, and provide our students with a safe educational environment. We urge you to please pass SB 1572.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Steve Shay'.

Steve Shay

President, AAUP-Oregon