

Senate Committee on Education
Testimony in Support of SB 1572
February 8, 2022

Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Thomsen, and Senators Gelser
Blouin, Gorsek, and Robinson,

My name is Angela Rico. It is my privilege to come before the Senate Education Committee as a Commissioner of the Oregon Commission for Women to express support and endorsement of Senate Bill 1572. Senate Bill 1572 aligns with our Commission's commitment to eradicate all forms of intimate partner violence, and build statewide cross-sectors response and prevention strategies. Our institutions of higher education are incubators for the future of our state. As such, it is critical that we support efforts around the education, and adoption of policies that seek to combat all forms of interpersonal violence including sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking.

1. OCFW works toward economic, social, political, and legal equity for the women of Oregon with particular focus on marginalized and underrepresented women of color. We do this through advocacy, public policy research, leadership development, and partnerships.
2. In our statutory role of bringing equity focus and community voice into Oregon policy making, OCFW strongly supports SB 1572.

Oregon Commission for Women

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As a domestic violence prosecutor, I see every day the importance of being able to reach people as early as possible to educate them about the red flags, the signs, and the resources to identify and stop the cycle of domestic violence. When I speak to individuals on college campuses about interpersonal violence, about the signs, about the resources available, there are always folks who come forward seeking help. Often times what we hear is that they didn't know someone else was going through what they were going through. We have to bring this issue to the forefront, to speak about it, and to start eradicating the stigma that surrounds reporting of interpersonal violence. We must message to our students all across Oregon that we are here for them and that we will support them in their journey should they choose to seek help from our institutions, whether that is for themselves, or someone they know. It is therefore critical that we support legislation such as Senate Bill 1572.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angela Rico', is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Commissioner

Oregon Commission for Women

