

Chair Lively, Vice Chair Ruiz, Vice Chair McIntire, and members of the House Committee On Higher Education,

My name is Caroline and I recently graduated from the University of Portland and am a passionate supporter of Team Oregon with the Every Voice Coalition. I am testifying in support of HB3546.

As a former student in Oregon, I have seen firsthand the distrust and fear that survivors have when it comes to institutional reporting processes. Many survivors don't feel safe or comfortable sharing their stories. Despite roughly 23,000 Oregon students experiencing sexual violence, 90 to 95 % of these survivors will not report their experiences, and thus not have access to the support and resources that are critical in the aftermath of their traumatic experiences. The detrimental and wide reaching effects of campus sexual violence continue to forever impact the lives of students across Oregon and there is no time to waste. I am asking the committee to pass HB3546 and take another step toward ending the epidemic of campus sexual violence.

HB3546 will allow student survivors the access to support from their institution of higher education *despite* their reporting status, meaning there will be no barrier to accessing services in terms of whether one chooses to report the incident or not. This allows the majority of students, those who do not participate in a grievance process, access to majorly important resources and avenues of support. This would be one less thing for survivors to worry about in the overwhelming aftermath of their experience.

In addition to ever important supportive measures for survivors, prevention is key. Not only is it crucial for students to receive initial education about prevention, but to also sustain this education and revisit these prevention measure to maintain a working knowledge of preventative practices so they feel informed and knowledgeable to fight campus sexual violence. Support following an incident is beyond important, but preventing sexual violence is always the ultimate goal. This annual programming will help equip students with necessary tools needed to take action.

Last but certainly not least, it is imperative that the State of Oregon and institutions of higher education collect meaningful data about the reality of student experiences on campuses across the state. The data collection methods currently employed use data only from students who have gone through the grievance process—which we know the majority of student survivors will not do, and thus are being left out of the picture. Employing a campus climate survey with sensitive and intentional questions to gain real data is imperative to make meaningful progress in this fight and to better our campuses.

I urge the committee to vote HB3456 favorably out of committee and help end the epidemic of campus sexual violence. Thank you for your time!