

Submitter: Ashley Oliver

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Higher Education

Measure: HB3456

Chair Lively, Vice Chair Ruiz, Vice Chair McIntire, and members of the House Committee On Higher Education, My name is Ashley Oliver, and I am a current student and confidential advocate for survivors of sexual assault, harassment, and stalking at an Oregon school, and I am testifying in support of HB3456.

As a confidential advocate I have seen firsthand how frustrating, heartbreaking, and retraumatizing the current resources available to survivors of sexual violence can be. To a young student who is already in a vulnerable transition period, experiencing sexual violence can be the tipping point that causes them to decide to pursue other paths than higher education. For others, it can be a crushing weight carried in secret for weeks, months, or even years, weighing on their mental and physical health, academic performance, interpersonal relationships, and much more. There is no one way that sexual violence affects students, therefore there is no one type of resource they need afterwards. HB 3456 accounts for both the diverse needs of student survivors of sexual assault across the state and the prevention of future sexual violence with its core five components.

For the safety of all students, I urge the committee to vote HB3456 favorably out of committee. Thank you for your time!