



**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**  
**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

DATE: March 16, 2023

TO: Representative John Lively, Chair  
House Committee on Higher Education

FROM: Kimberly McCullough, Legislative Director  
Oregon Department of Justice

SUBJECT: House Bill 3456 – Sexual Misconduct in Higher Education

This testimony is presented in support of HB 3456.

**Background:**

Attorney General Rosenblum and the Oregon Department of Justice support measures that foster inclusive and safe educational experiences for college students in Oregon.

Sexual assault on college campuses is far too common. Although it is impossible to know how big of a problem it is because many victims and survivors will never come forward, a recent survey by the Association of American Universities found that around 30 percent of female undergraduates and 10 percent of female graduate students are victims of sexual assault or sexual misconduct at some point during their college life. The same study found that men also experience the prevalence of sexual assault on campus, at around 7 percent of undergraduate men and 2.5 percent of male graduate students.<sup>1</sup>

Although the State of Oregon has gone beyond what is simply required under federal laws to provide safe and inclusive learning requirements in higher education, we need to provide consistent and meaningful protections for students across all institutions of higher education. We also need strong data reporting requirements in order to fully understand the needs of Oregon students, and how to compassionately and effectively meet them when students become victims of sexual assault.

**Concept:**

HB 3456 is an important student-led initiative to address the problem of sexual assault at institutions of higher education. The bill will assure that all students, regardless of which institutions they attend, have the resources and support they need in the aftermath of sexual assault.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.aau.edu/sites/default/files/AAU-Files/Key-Issues/Campus-Safety/Revised%20Aggregate%20report%20%20and%20appendices%201-7\\_\(01-16-2020\\_FINAL\).pdf](https://www.aau.edu/sites/default/files/AAU-Files/Key-Issues/Campus-Safety/Revised%20Aggregate%20report%20%20and%20appendices%201-7_(01-16-2020_FINAL).pdf)

This includes free legal, medical and counseling services; confidential advice; special protections for parties who report sexual assault without fear of disciplinary action for drug or alcohol use; transparent data collection through campus climate surveys; and annual training to ensure that all members of campus communities have the information they need to respond to and prevent sexual assault.

We urge the committee to pass this important bill.

**Contact:**

Kimberly McCullough, Legislative Director, 503-931-0418, [kimberly.mccullough@doj.state.or.us](mailto:kimberly.mccullough@doj.state.or.us)

Kate Denison, Deputy Legislative Director, 971-599-9851, [kate.e.denison@doj.state.or.us](mailto:kate.e.denison@doj.state.or.us)