



# Sexual Violence Prevention On College Campuses – HB 3456

03/16/2023

Chair Lively, Vice Chair Ruiz, Vice Chair McIntire, and members of the committee,

Oregon Student Association advocates for the collective interests of students in postsecondary institutions in Oregon. This includes the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of students. We strive for our campuses to be safe, inclusive, and welcoming to all Oregonians. While we know all our public universities and community colleges administrations are committed to student safety, it is clear more must be done to prevent sexual violence, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating or domestic violence, and stalking, on our college and university campuses.

Student or not, college-age adults are at high risk for sexual violence. Among college students, the risk of sexual assault and violence on campus remains high. [Studies](#) have found that approximately 26% of all female undergraduate students and 6.8% of all male undergraduate students have experienced sexual assault. Though both men and women are targets of violence on campus, sexual assault disproportionately affects college women and impedes survivors' ability to participate fully in their education. Further, LGBTQ students, Black students, and students living with disabilities all have higher risks of being sexually assaulted on-campus.

Sexual violence should not be part of the "college experience." **HB 3456 would work to support survivors of sexual and domestic violence across all Oregon higher education institutions by:**

- Providing free legal, medical, and counseling services to ensure survivors are able to receive resources and support through partnerships with community-based domestic and sexual violence advocacy agencies;
- Providing confidential advising services to aid survivors in navigating the complex process of accessing necessary resources and understanding their rights and options;
- Creating amnesty protections for reporting parties to ensure survivors are not silenced or deterred from seeking support due to fear of punishment related to alcohol or drug use;
- Collecting transparent, public data through anonymous campus climate surveys to allow schools to identify impacted demographics, tailor solutions to their campus communities, and test the effectiveness of prevention programs; and
- Requiring annual prevention and awareness programming to ensure that students and employees receive robust training on prevention and response, equipping everyone to take action to stop sexual violence.

**It is for these reasons that the Oregon Student Association supports HB 3456.**

Thank you,

Nick Keough  
Legislative Director, Oregon Student Association