

CAMPUS PROGRAM



PREVENT FUNDING CUTS TO CAMPUS-BASED SEXUAL AND DATING VIOLENCE ADVOCACY PROGRAMS BY FUNDING HB 5014

Dear Co-Chairs, Vice-Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Shannon Rose and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force's Campus Program and the VOCA funded Campus Project **to urge support for continued funding for College and University Based Campus Sexual, Domestic, and Dating Violence Advocacy Programs included in HB 3196.**

The Campus Advocacy Cohort includes a diverse group of campus-based advocacy programs providing specialized support to Oregon's students of higher education and campus communities to improve safety and responses to violence and harassment. Research demonstrates that college students experience high rates of domestic and sexual violence. **One in five women and one in 16 men are sexually assaulted while in college and nearly two-thirds of college students experience sexual harassment. Students experiencing violence and harassment have poorer academic and health outcomes than students who do not.** For these reasons, supporting and expanding - not reducing - campus based advocacy programs are crucial.

Since the Campus Advocacy Cohort was initially formed a decade ago, campus based programs have supported individual students, as well as college and university staff and administration in understanding how to improve safety on their campuses and better respond to violence and harassment when it happens.

One cohort member shared the following, "[Students] stated that with the emergency funding we've provided, they've been able to stay housed and continue attending school. They've felt safer, because they don't have to worry about

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whether they can afford to move to a safer home or not, since we can assist with moving costs. **They've told us that if our advocates didn't support them through the reporting process or help communicate with professors, they weren't sure if they would still be enrolled at the university.**"

Another cohort member reports, "VOCA funds supported not only the creation of our campus's confidential advocacy program but the capacity to grow and serve more students . . . [we] **have served over 100 unduplicated students per quarter.**"

Campus Advocacy Programs not only make students, staff, and administration safer, but they improve academic outcomes, ensuring that more students can successfully complete their educations and move through a time in their lives when they often find themselves most vulnerable to sexual violence. Without the funding provided in HB 3196 to bridge the gap in VOCA funding, there is little doubt that these programs will not survive. I urge you, on behalf of the Campus Advocate Cohort and college and university students across Oregon to pass HB 3196 and ensure the VOCA bridge funding is included in the Oregon Department of Justice budget for the 2025-2027 biennium.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shannon Rose".

SHANNON ROSE

Executive Director

NSVRC, Going to College: What Families Need to Know About Sexual Assault and Safety on Campus, retrieved 4/16/2025, https://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/2016-06/publications_nsvrc_tip-sheet_going-to-college-what-families-need-know-sexual-assault-safety-campus.pdf