

Advocating for Equity and Diversity throughout Oregon

Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office

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Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

On behalf of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions and our Joint Subcommittee on Domestic & Sexual Violence Prevention and Statewide Coordination, we write in strong support of HB 2456, legislation that modifies provisions relating to the Sexual Assault Victims' Emergency Medical Response Fund. This critical bill seeks to enhance access to emergency medical care and forensic services for survivors of sexual assault, ensuring that no victim is denied care due to financial barriers.

Sexual assault remains a pervasive issue in Oregon, disproportionately affecting women and marginalized communities. Immediate access to medical care, forensic examinations, and trauma-informed support services is essential to survivors' physical and emotional well-being. HB 2456 strengthens the existing fund to provide more equitable and comprehensive support for those in need. By expanding resources and refining the fund's administration, this bill will help ensure timely, compassionate, and survivor-centered medical response services across the state.

The Oregon Advocacy Commissions and our Joint Subcommittee on Domestic & Sexual Violence Prevention and Statewide Coordination are dedicated to advancing the rights and well-being of survivors throughout Oregon. We recognize that survivors of sexual violence face numerous challenges in seeking care and justice, and we believe HB 2456 is a necessary step toward addressing these barriers. Strengthening the Sexual Assault Victims' Emergency Medical Response Fund will demonstrate Oregon's commitment to survivor-centered policies and reinforce the state's dedication to ending sexual violence.

We urge you to support HB 2456 and advocate for its passage in the 2025 legislative session. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to protecting and empowering survivors in our state. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can provide additional information or support in advancing this vital legislation.

Sincerely,

Oregon Commission for Women

Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs

