

Office of Global Diversity & Inclusion

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Chair Frederick, Vice Chair Weber, and Members of the Committee on Senate Education:

My name is Albert Roberson, and I proudly serve as the Assistant Vice President for Equity and Compliance at Portland State University. In this role, I also serve as the university's Title IX Coordinator. I am submitting testimony in support of House Bill 3731. Yesterday, I misspoke when I mentioned that we could not formally support the bill. While we had taken that approach during the last hearing when we had not seen the text of the -5 amendment, we are now supportive of this legislation.

Oregon's public universities would like to express our gratitude to Representative Hartman for her leadership on this issue and her office's ongoing collaboration with our institutions. This partnership has been instrumental in ensuring that the reporting requirements in statute accurately reflect the comprehensive work our offices do to support and accommodate survivors on our campuses, ensuring that all students have access to opportunity.

I believe it is critically important that policymakers and other stakeholders have a full understanding of the experiences faced by today's public university students — including the sexual misconduct reporting process and the accommodations and supportive measures that institutions are legally able to provide. Unfortunately, the report template used to fulfill our reporting requirements under House Bill 3456 did not allow institutions to provide more meaningful context behind the data. This limitation has left lawmakers and the public without a clear understanding of the various ways cases are investigated, resolved, or otherwise addressed.

In response, regional Title IX Coordinators have been actively engaged with Representative Hartman's office to provide feedback and suggest amendments to the bill. We greatly appreciate Representative Hartman's dedication to ensuring this bill reflects that input. We look forward to collaborating with her office in the future to ensure that this report both meets the needs of policymakers and provides the full picture of the many ways in which institutions support survivors.

The nature of our work is rooted in ensuring a safe, equitable, and supportive environment for students who are navigating complex, emotional, and often highly sensitive situations. Our efforts are guided by our commitment to providing trauma-informed support, implementing fair and impartial processes, and ensuring that all students have access to the resources and accommodations necessary to continue their education without barriers.

Thank you for considering this legislation. We hope your committee will support HB 3731 to ensure that institutions of higher education are able to provide a clear picture of how we are supporting students.

Sincerely,

Albert Roberson

Assistant Vice President of Equity and Compliance

Title IX Coordinator and ADA/504 Officer