



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Chair Frederick, Vice Chair Weber, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kavi Shrestha, and I am Representative Annessa Hartman's Legislative Aide. I am writing in strong support of HB 3731, which I am happy to share passed the House Higher Education Committee unanimously and the House Floor nearly unanimously. This bill is about one thing: making sure our data is comprehensive and tells the full truth about sexual misconduct on college and university campuses in Oregon.

During the last Long Session in 2023, our office passed the Campus Survivors Bill—House Bill 3456. That bill came straight from student survivors who shared challenges when describing what it's like to try to report sexual misconduct, ask for help, or just be believed. The bill created confidential advocates, required prevention training for staff, gave student survivors amnesty for coming forward, mandated climate surveys, and, relevant to this bill, required schools to publicly report data on sexual misconduct.

However, when the first round of data went public last year, we noticed there were wide discrepancies between similarly sized campuses, low numbers of reports, and surprisingly small numbers of formal investigations. After discussions with Title IX Coordinators, we found the reporting requirements unintentionally left out a lot of important context about the misconduct incidents and the work Title IX offices do in response.

For example, the reporting statute requires listing the total number of allegations of sexual misconduct against students or employees, but Title IX Coordinators also provide services to students who have been assaulted by people outside the campus community. The numbers also don't reflect anonymous reports or cases where survivors decide they don't want to engage with the formal process. This means the data is incomplete, and when we undercount the problem, we risk underserving the people who need help the most.

HB 3731 is our attempt to fix that.

First, it updates the law so that reports of sexual misconduct allegedly perpetrated by third parties— people who are not students or employees— are included. It also includes these cases in the question about the resulting number of law enforcement investigations.

Second, it gives the institutions a way to contextualize the numbers: what types of misconduct are most commonly being reported, what types of supportive measures they offered, and case closures, shifting from simply reporting raw numbers.

And third, and this request came directly from the Title IX Coordinators themselves, HB 3731 adds a longer narrative section. A space for institutions to talk about what they are doing to combat campus misconduct, describe successes, and explain any challenges or gaps in services.

I want to be clear, this isn't about more numbers, it's about better understanding. Understanding the full picture of sexual misconduct harming so many young people trying to simply get an education, while also recognizing the often unseen work that these Title IX coordinators do every day.

These changes take time, so we've built in a longer implementation window that only begins in the 2025-26 year, except the narrative section, which the Title IX Coordinators are ready to include now.

I want to thank the student survivors and the Title IX Coordinators for all the feedback they provided to get this bill right. At the heart of this is a simple truth: we cannot address a problem we do not fully understand. By making these changes, we're working to ensure that the difficult but essential work of Title IX Coordinators is recognized and that student survivors are seen.

I urge your "aye" vote for HB 3731 to get better data to protect student victims in Oregon.

Thank you,

Kavi Shrestha

*Legislative Aide, Rep. Annessa Hartman (HD-40)*