

Testimony: HB 3009 and HB 3114

April 8, 2013

Chair Dembrow and Members of the House Higher Education Committee,

I am testifying in favor of HB 3009 and in opposition to HB 3114.

As a mother of a sexual assault victim, I strongly urge you to continue to allow concealed carry on Oregon's college campuses.

I am a mother of a daughter that, while she was attending Western Oregon University a couple of years ago, was involved in a horrific sexual assault. The perpetrator, also a Western Oregon student, is now in prison for his crime. My daughter remains with many sleepless nights and a chair under her doorknob inside her bedroom for fear that someone can come in at any time and violate her again.

This changed her life forever. After going through a year of a private investigators harassing her and her friends around college and her work place, grand jury depositions, an anticipated trial that kept getting postponed for an entire year, and then a week of trial, she ended up leaving college early and had to settle for a less desirable degree because she could no longer focus on school. She has been through hours of counseling to try and help her regain the confidence and courage she once had. The scars are there for a lifetime and she will forever live with the horror.

As parents we felt helpless and became very aware of how defenseless she felt the night it happened. For her 25th birthday, which was a month after the trial was over; we purchased a handgun and gave it to her for her birthday. We have been encouraging her to get her CHL as we have done in the past. While CHL records were still public, she refused to take any chance that her privacy once again would be exposed. But I am happy to say that, with the recent passing of HB 4045 last May, protecting CHL records from public access, she has just recently completed her CHL training and will soon have her license.

This safety and empowerment is only a part of the slow journey to recovery for my daughter. Had she had her CHL when she was in college, she may have been spared this tragedy.

But it's not too late for others. And for her, having her CHL and the means to protect herself is the only way my daughter could ever consider going back to college.

For the sake of my daughter and others, I urge you as Oregon lawmakers to please continue to allow law abiding citizens to protect themselves while attending school.

Sincerely,
Denise Renner
Hillsboro, Oregon

