

**ROB NOSSE**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
DISTRICT 42



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

To: Senate Committee on Education  
From: Rep. Rob Nosse  
Re: SB 473

Chair Roblan, Vice-Chair Knopp, Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Rob Nosse and I represent inner SE and NE Portland. I'm here today to express my enthusiastic support for Senate Bill 473, a simple bill with the potential to have tremendous outcomes for student success and our state as we edge closer to our goal of increasing graduation rates for Oregon students.

It will allow students, faculty and staff in colleges and universities across Oregon to voluntarily identify sexual orientation on forms that already collect demographic data, data that will be used to help track the progress of members of my own community. It's important to recognize that we don't mandate anyone to disclose their identity on any of these forms already and once the information is collected it will be disaggregated.

SB 473 also allows students to use a first name on certain college documents such as class lists, campus directories, student ID cards, and diplomas where not legally prohibited. This would be a huge step forward into recognizing the lives and experiences of transgender students, survivors of domestic violence and victims of stalking within our campus communities, ideally creating a more welcoming environment to which they can truly succeed. Most of the youth in our public k-12 schools already have this option, so why not extend it to post-secondary education?

We know that LGBTQ people face homelessness, joblessness, hunger, and so many other problematic disparities at disproportionate rates compared to our heterosexual and cisgender peers, but we don't have enough information to adequately address these issues at the higher education level and this bill will help.

During my time working at the Oregon Student Association, I helped to organize efforts that lead to a more amplified voice from college students across our state, this legislation would more accurately include the voices of those who have historically been left out. I urge your 'aye' vote on this bill and thank you for your time today.

Sincerely,

Representative Rob Nosse

House District 42

