

March 19, 2015

Senator Arnie Roblan
Chair, Senate Committee on Education
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Senator Tim Knopp
Vice-Chair, Senate Committee on Education
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Roblan and Vice-Chair Knopp:

The Title IX Coordinators at Eastern Oregon University, Oregon Institute of Technology, Oregon State University, Portland State University, Southern Oregon University, University of Oregon, and Western Oregon University is putting forward some suggestions as the committee starts their work on bills that deal with sexual assault on Oregon campuses. Just like the legislature, we, too, are deeply committed to preventing sexual misconduct and assault.

According to the Campus Sexual Assault study funded by the National Institute of Justice, 1 in 5 women are sexually assaulted while in college. Prevention and education are tools to combat sexual assault on campus and each of Oregon's public university campuses is committed to providing sexual assault prevention and education programs.

Campuses are currently regulated by the federal government through Title IX and the Clery Act, including the recent Campus SaVE Act amendments. Coordinating the various rules and regulations on the federal level requires significant resources. We know that Congress is also looking at legislation to increase regulations and prevention programs in the upcoming 114th session.

In summary we hope to see the following goals met in the 2015 legislative session:

1. Create a state fund that would supply grants to universities, community organizations, and partnerships between them. Such grants could fund efforts designed to create and sustain sexual assault support services and prevention efforts, such as positions to coordinate prevention and bystander education.
2. Approve a statutory privilege for confidential advocates much like the present state privilege for professional counselors.
3. Recommend collaboration between universities and local law enforcement by establishing reciprocal responsibilities.

Thank you for your consideration. If you need further information or would like to discuss these proposals, please contact Mary Moller at (503) 725-9818 or mollerm@pdx.edu.

Sincerely,

Title IX Coordinator Work Group
Oregon's public universities