

= COUNT US IN! =



From the desk
of Rep. Rob
Nosse

SUPPORT SB 473

STRENGTHEN DATA COLLECTION AT OREGON'S COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

= DATA COLLECTION HELPS IDENTIFY DISPARITIES =

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students face extraordinary barriers to accessing post-secondary education. Nationally, nearly 1/3 of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students drop out of high school—many to escape harassment and isolation. For those that make it on to college, conditions can remain challenging.

According to *Too Afraid to Learn*, a 2008 survey of over 3,500 Oregon college students, a hostile campus climate has a significant impact on LGBT students:

- **1 in 10** took more than five years to graduate due to anti-LGBT sentiment.
- **Over half** concealed their sexual orientation on campus for fear of personal safety, discrimination or rejection.
- **More than 60%** of all students reported witnessing instances of homophobia, ranging from anti-LGBT remarks to hate crimes.

Without standardized data collection, Oregon colleges and universities won't be able to accurately assess and appropriately address the needs of LGBT students, faculty and staff.

= GIVES COMMUNITY COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES THE TOOLS THEY NEED =

Expanding data collection will help ensure that community colleges and universities colleges can provide the services and programs that best serve the students on their campuses. Clear, consistent data collection helps ensure that Oregon's public institutions of higher education have the tools they need to meet all students' needs. SB 473 will help update and modernize how colleges collect information so that they can better serve the diverse population of students on their campus. It allows colleges and universities to replicate successes and address disparities—and that strengthens Oregon colleges for ALL students. The details of the forms collecting demographic information will be designed by **educational professionals** at The Higher Education Coordinating Commission. The federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) governs the treatment of student records and safeguards information/data in those records at public colleges and universities.

= HELPS ENSURE CAMPUSES ARE SAFE AND INCLUSIVE =

SB 473 will help make an invisible population on our college campuses visible. In order to ensure that our campuses are safe and inclusive we need more data and information on the student that are attending our colleges. This is the first step is recognizing that we have LGBT students in our higher education systems and addressing the many disparities they face. SB 473 creates the opportunity to collect data voluntarily (Disclosure is not mandated). It allow students, faculty and staff of public universities and community colleges to identify their sexual orientation and preferred name on forms collecting demographic information.

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