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Testimony of John Wykoff in Support of SB 318
Before the Senate Committee on Education
February 16, 2017

Chair Roblan, members of the committee, for the record my name is John Wykoff, Deputy Director of the Oregon Community College Association. Thank you for receiving my testimony in support of SB 318 today.

First, I'd like to start by thanking Senator Gelser for sponsoring SB 318 as well as the members of the Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force. Community colleges have been involved in the Task Force, the work of which became the bill before you today.

Oregon's 17 community colleges are committed to ensuring that our campuses are resources for students in the prevention of and response to sexual assault and abuse. We further appreciate the approach of the legislation in providing technical assistance for campuses to implement best practices, comply with federal mandates, maintain confidentiality of victims and other areas. We believe this approach will offer real assistance for campuses in these critical areas.

We would suggest one amendment to SB 318 to include the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) in Section 1 of the bill. While the program itself should stay within the Oregon Department of Education (ODE), the language in Section 1 should state that ODE will coordinate with the HECC to provide technical assistance at the post-secondary level.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important issue and we look forward to continuing to work with Sen. Gelser, the Attorney General's office, and this committee to make this legislation successful.