



DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY

To: Oregon Senate Committee on Judiciary
From: Chris Wig, Chair, Democratic Party of Lane County
Re: Support for SB 762

March 1, 2017

Dear Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the 104,014 Democrats in Lane County to urge you to vote Yes on Senate Bill 762, which would protect victims of sexual assault from being prosecuted for possession of alcoholic beverages.

Democrats in Lane County stand with survivors of sexual violence, and our most recent Platform states the DPLC will work to "Ensure that those reporting that they are victims of sexual assault are treated seriously and with dignity."

Senate Bill 762 will increase safety on college campuses in Oregon by removing one barrier to reporting sexual assault. The National Sexual Violence Resource Center reports "One in 5 women and one in 16 men are sexually assaulted while in college," and "More than 90 percent of sexual assault victims on college campuses do not report the assault;"

This is a big deal on Oregon campuses, as the 2015 UO Sexual Violence and Institutional Betrayal survey conducted by Dr. Jennifer Freyd found at least 13 percent of female undergraduate students at the University of Oregon reported they had been sexually assaulted. In 2016, 23,634 students were enrolled at UO; the UO Admissions office reported 53 percent of UO students are female, meaning more than 1,600 female students have been sexually assaulted, according to the Freyd study.

Please contact me if you have any questions or require additional information. I look forward to working with you to create a safe, prosperous and enduring Oregon.

Sincerely,

Chris Wig
Chair
Democratic Party of Lane County