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To: Senate Committee on Judiciary
From: Makenna Crofcheck
RE: SB 762

Hello Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Makenna Crofcheck, and I am a first-year student at Linn Benton Community College. I am here before you today to urge you to support SB 762 and survivors of sexual assault across the state. I want to tell you my personal experience. When I was in high school, a classmate sexually assaulted me. I was his tutor. When I came over to help him study, he pinned me down and took advantage of me. After this he tormented me in the halls, pushing my self-esteem lower and lower. I sank into depression and didn't know what to do with myself. I got away from the sexual abuse, and my friends made me get help. I was embarrassed about seeking help because I felt like I deserved the abuse for getting myself in the situation in the first place.

I wasn't under the influence when this happened, and I can't imagine what would have happened if I had been intoxicated. It was hard to come forward and to seek help, and there was no potential alcohol charge to consider. This issue makes it even harder to come forward after the abuse has occurred. In this situation, you do everything you can to mentally cope with the trauma. You don't need to worry about alcohol charges to top it off. That might have kept me from coming forward and seeking the help I desperately needed. I'm sure it has frightened away other folks who have found themselves abused where alcohol was involved. Please grant these survivors the amnesty they need to report the abuse and get the help they need.