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To: Senate Committee on Judiciary
From: Tabitha Pitzer
RE: SB 762

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

My name is Tabitha Pitzer and I am a third-year student at Oregon State University. I am here before you today to urge you to support SB 762 and survivors of sexual assault across the state. According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, 1 in 5 women are sexually assaulted during their first two years in college, and I am one of them. My freshman year at Oregon State, at the age of 19, I was sexually assaulted in the basement of a fraternity by an upper classman. Like many others, I was attending a party and was given alcohol. I didn't notice that the drinks were being given to me more frequently, and stronger, but I trusted my friend that was giving me the drinks. I trusted him to ensure my safety, but he was the one who hurt me the most. After the sexual assault, I was confused and I was scared. I didn't know what to do—thinking to myself, do I report? Will they believe me even though I have been drinking? Will I get a MIP? In the end, I chose not to report or seek help for fear of facing legal trouble myself.

90% of campus sexual assaults go unreported, and mine is one of them. Considering that approximately half of all sexual assault survivors report that they were drinking alcohol at the time of the assault, I know that I am not the only underage person who has not report a sexual assault most likely due to fear of getting in trouble while seeking help. We need policies to ensure that survivors know that the state cares most about our safety and not about what we have been consuming. Legislation that puts the survivor first with legal amnesty will increase reporting rates and increase accurate and honest reporting. Forward thinking legislation like this emphasizes the stories of survivors which is why the Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force supports this bill. Alcohol is the most common date rape drug, often used by predators as a tool like it was in my case. Just as those sexually assaulted under the influence of roofies would not be prosecuted for consuming an illegal substance, those who consume alcohol underage and seek help should have the same protection. Please support SB 762 and its expansion and show survivors, like me, that you care about our safety most. Thank you.