

**TESTIMONY in Support of SB 2972**  
**Submitted to the House Committee on Judiciary**  
**Submitted by: Erica Rothman**

Chairman Barker and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

My name is Erica Rothman, I'm the Title IX Co-Coordinator at Portland Community College (PCC), and I would like to submit this testimony in support of SB 2972.

PCC is the largest public community college in Oregon, serving more than 80,000 students, faculty and staff. Community colleges are a gateway for many first generation college students. Community colleges provide Oregon students an affordable alternative to traditional four-year institution with certification and vocational programs. Community colleges also offer a stepping stone with transfer degrees, something that will be ramping up with implementation of the Oregon Promise.

PCC strives to create an environment that not only fosters educational development, but also creates a safe space where students feel comfortable coming forward for support services. PCC offers a range of support services for students who have experienced sexual assault, domestic violence, or stalking, including academic accommodations, safety planning, and access to trained advocates. PCC also has a robust investigatory process for sexual misconduct cases.

For any institution of higher education to be successful in its response to sexual violence, it must not only investigate promptly, but it must also work to create a response system that students feel they can trust. **HB 2972** would help campuses across Oregon to ensure students that not only will their choices to report or not be taken into consideration, and that they will not experience further traumatization from reporting after an already traumatic experience.

HB 2972 will provide students with the protections necessary to ensure victims of sexual and domestic violence that they will be treated with respect and dignity throughout the Title IX process no matter what campus they attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Rothman