



541-296-1662

P.O. Box 576
The Dalles, OR 97058

Good Morning Senators Roblan and Linthicum, and members of the Senate Committee on Education.

My name is Taylor Rosenthal and I am the Prevention and Outreach Program Coordinator for HAVEN From Domestic and Sexual Violence (HAVEN) in The Dalles, OR. I also serve as the co-chair of the Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force Prevention and Education Committee. I am pleased to submit testimony in support of SB318.

HAVEN serves Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, and Wheeler Counties. HAVEN also provides services to surrounding communities along the Columbia River Gorge and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation. During my time at HAVEN, the Prevention Education program has continued to build capacity beyond Wasco County Schools to include middle and high schools throughout our service area. Our farthest school is roughly 2.5 hours south of The Dalles and is in the Frontier Community of Wheeler County. Many of the rural and frontier schools that we are partner with lack the capacity to implement the unfunded mandates, such as the Healthy Teen Relationship Act (HTRA) and Erin's Law. Just last week one of the principals requested that we help them plan how to implement Erin's Law, though they were unsure what that included. We have had another leader in one of the counties we serve express that sexual assault doesn't happen in their community. I am sure we all can agree that based on the most recent findings from Count Her In from the Women's Foundation of Oregon, sexual assault happens everywhere. Our greatest captive audience is in the schools. I consider myself an expert in my field and believe that prevention education is not only important but crucial in order to bring change in Oregon. In 2016, HAVEN served 441 primary survivors, 93 of those being teen and adult survivors of sexual assault. HAVEN's program was able to provide 230 school based educational sessions that allowed us to have 4,016 student contacts.

Our Prevention Program continues to receive invites to meet the needs of the differing schools and communities in our service area. Because of HAVEN's lack of capacity, we unfortunately are not able to meet all the requests at the level we know to be effective.

Additionally, as the co-chair of the state wide Prevention Education Committee (PEC) I support SB318. One of the supports that the SATF Prevention Education Committee offers is to support primary prevention programs around the state working with schools. Primary Prevention funding is severely lacking and unfortunately, there is not the capacity to meet the needs around the state. This bill will support FTE to strengthen state-level violence prevention efforts in K-12, and improve community college response by supporting state wide implementation of HTRA and Erin's Law, support academic achievement and retention by addressing bullying, harassment and incidents of violence and continue to strengthen the bond between sexual health promotion and violence prevention positioning schools and prevention programs for success and better outcomes.

Lastly, SB318 will support efforts and compliance of Title IX and the Clery Act with attention on trauma-informed, survivor-centered practices, support statewide implementation of students rights (SB759) and privacy laws.

Thank you all for the amazing work you all do to support students and programs around the state.


Taylor Rosenthal
Prevention Program and Outreach Coordinator, HAVEN From Domestic & Sexual Violence

