



clackamas women's services

256 Warner Milne Road, Oregon City, OR 97045

(503) 655-8600 | www.cwsor.org

Testimony in Support of SB 318

Chair Roblan, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and members of the Committee . . .

My name is Kristin Schlotterbeck and I'm the Community Education Program Manager with Clackamas Women's Services. Our Education program includes Violence Prevention programming to youth in Clackamas County schools. CWS provides Educators specifically trained in violence prevention, dating and sexual violence to facilitate lessons to middle and high schools health classes.

We use a 10-session curriculum that teaches students how to recognize dating and sexual violence and most importantly how students can intervene when they see their classmates perpetrating violence or being victimized. We provide these lessons to 16 different schools across our county, reaching almost 8,000 students this past school year and are constantly expanding.

We know that rates of gender-based violence continue to be high. Based on the Oregon Health Authorities 2015 Healthy Teen Survey 13% of Clackamas County 11th graders identified "giving in to sexual activity when they didn't want to because of pressure", and 5.8% identify as "being physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they didn't want to." By the same survey, 4.6% experienced physical violence at the hands of a dating partner and 23.5% at the hands of an adult. This survey is administered every two years, and the rates of children experiencing violence at the hands of a dating partner have not declined. In addition, we know from the Southern Poverty Law Center that rates of hate crimes have also recently been on the rise.

Clackamas County is incredibly diverse. We work across affluent urban schools, to small schools out in our most rural areas. And across all those schools, the need is the same. Children are growing up without many powerful models of healthy relationships. There is a great need for them to learn how to share their power, how to communicate across disagreements and different backgrounds, and how to show their friends an empathetic and helping hand. This Senate Bill 318 would help teachers and administrators in schools across the state get the support they need to provide this type of education in the most effective ways, even when there are not additional community based resources to support.

And students want to learn these things too, I've included for the record just some of the feedback we receive from students demonstrating the impact violence prevention education can have on their lives. Thank you for your time in considering the impact Senate Bill 318 will have in the lives of young people across the state, I urge you to make a commitment to decrease the experience of violence through your support of Senate Bill 318.



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“I like what you’re doing because it helps those of us who have gone through this feel not alone.” – Student, Clackamas High

One student at Clackamas High School said they liked learning about the “teen power and control wheel” the most “because it opened by eyes and made me realize my relationship is very unhealthy.”

One student at Baker Prairie Middle School said they liked the “unhealthy relationship” topic the most. “This just gave me a better understanding of how relationships shouldn’t go. It helped me realized I was a victim of one.”

“I liked learning about relationships and dating violence, and what kinds of things we can look out for, because I can use the things I learned in the future to make good decisions and to make sure I’m in a healthy relationship.”

One student at Oregon City High School said they liked talking about dating violence “because even though I never realized it and was told many times, I finally recognize I was in an abusive relationship freshman year.”

One student at Oregon City High School said they liked talking about dating violence because “it made me realize that my past boyfriend was extremely verbally abusive and mentally abusive toward me because I have a chronic illness. It makes me happy that I’m not with him so he can’t try to control my entire life anymore.”

A student at Rex Putnam High School said, “It means a lot to me that you guys do this. There are topics that a lot of people my age take lightly, and they need to understand how serious it is, and how important it is to be educated.”

A student at Rex Putnam High School said, “These presentations were very informative and might save lives with this new knowledge and tools to help out future victims.”

A student at Lake Oswego High School said, “Thank you for coming and presenting to us. We are very lucky to know that there is someone there for us in case we need it.”

A student at Lake Oswego High School said, “My favorite would be the victim empathy lesson because I’ve experienced violence and had to stand and fight back. It reminded me that it’s not my fault.”

A student at Lake Oswego High School said, “Thank you for coming in. Literally the day we started talking about unhealthy relationships my friend was trying to break up with her unhealthy relationships, and it was reassuring to hear I was doing things correctly.”