



Thursday 16, 2017

To:
Senator Arnie Roblan, Chair
Senator Dennis Linthicum, Vice Chair

CC:
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 318.

The Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (OCADSV) advocates on behalf of 50+ tribal and community based, non-profit domestic and sexual violence programs. We support your local programs by providing technical assistance, community education, training in prevention, and supporting coordinated emergency medical and legal response to these extremely personal crimes. We strive to ensure that the voices of domestic and sexual violence survivors are heard, and that the experiences of survivors inform both the work we do – and the work you are doing today. Thank you for your willingness to listen to our testimony regarding the importance of passing SB 318 to fully implement the Healthy Teen Relationship Act to support teen victims of dating violence.

While Oregon has made many positive strides in prevention and response efforts to help teens dealing with dating violence, our schools across Oregon lack the infrastructure and support to fully implement effective prevention and trauma-informed responses to these victims. Oregon remains second in the nation in rates of sexual violence and the statistics highlight the serious nature of this issue:

- Over 1 in 3 women (37%) and 1 in 3 men (34%) in Oregon reported having experienced rape, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner at some point in their lifetime.
- In 2015, survivors of sexual and domestic violence made 134,888 calls for help to service providers in Oregon.

- One in three adolescents in the U.S. is a victim of physical, sexual, emotional or verbal abuse.

We have a responsibility to do everything we can to help put an end to this violence and SB 318 will be critical in this effort. This bill will strengthen state-level violence prevention efforts in K-12 and improve community college response.

SB 318 will fund 1.5FTE at the Oregon Department of Education to support K-12 and community colleges:

- Violence Prevention Specialist (.5FTE) will increase a current position at ODE to full-time, supporting K-12. This position will:
 - Support implementation of the Healthy Teen Relationship Act and Erin's Law
 - Support academic achievement and retention by addressing bullying, harassment, and incidents of violence
 - Strengthen the bond between health promotion and violence prevention
- Title IX Specialist (1FTE) will provide technical assistance and support to Oregon's secondary schools and community colleges addressing interpersonal violence. The position will:
 - Focus attention on trauma-informed, survivor-centered practices
 - Support federal implementation and compliance with Title IX and the Clery Act
 - Support statewide implementation of students rights (SB759), requiring schools to provide survivors with their on-campus, civil, and criminal options following an incident of violence
 - Support federal and state implementation of student privacy laws

These positions will be instrumental in reshaping the K-12 landscape and changing the lives of Oregonians, helping to reduce future sexual and domestic violence across the state. For this reason and those listed above, we ask that you please support the passage of SB 318.

Thank you,

Niki Terzieff
Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence