



Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force

Testimony in support of HB 4150

House Judiciary Committee

Submitted by: Jackie Sandmeyer, Campus Coordinator

Chair Barker and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force (SATF), I submit this testimony in support of HB 4150, which will provide best practice guidance for K-12 school districts, ensuring that student victims are given information regarding their rights, reporting options, and services available to them.

Sexual violence in our schools is a nation-wide epidemic, and Oregon is no exception. In the 2017 Oregon Healthy Teens Survey, issued by the Oregon Health Authority, 6.1% of 11th grade students reported having been physically forced to have sexual intercourse without their consent, and 12.1% reported being pressured into sex¹. Similarly, in a national survey, 48% of students in 7-12 grade experienced sexual harassment during the school year². Oregon's commitment to student success should not only focus on their academic well-being, but their personal safety and emotional well-being as well. Students who experience sexual violence are at high risk for long term effects of trauma, including struggling academically, depression, and PTSD.

Creating safe schools where students recognize violence when it happens and feel safe coming forward to seek support or make a report, will take a coordinated effort that SATF is committed to. HB 4150 will help to start these conversations by ensuring that victims are given information about their rights and options, as well as giving school districts the beginning of a roadmap for success. SATF hopes to see continued conversations about our response to and prevention of violence in our K-12 schools and sees this as the first step.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JS", written over a faint circular watermark or background.

Jackie Sandmeyer

¹ <http://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/BIRTHDEATHCERTIFICATES/SURVEYS/OREGONHEALTHYTEENS/Pages/2017.aspx>

² <https://www.aauw.org/research/crossing-the-line/>