



Date: February 12, 2018
To: House Judiciary Committee, Chair Barker and Members
From: Laurie Wimmer, OEA Government Relations Consultant
RE: *HB 4150 [Sexual Harassment Notice in Schools]*

On behalf of OEA's 47,000 members, I am honored to testify in general support of HB 4150, which seeks to add a step to Oregon's no-tolerance laws regarding sexual misconduct in K-12 education.

In the current climate, it is important to ensure that staff and students alike are clear about their options, should they become the target of unwanted harassment or worse. This bill, which has gone through several refinements over the past weeks and months, seeks to make certain that those who experience sexual harassment have a clear understanding of the supports and systems that exist for them.

We are grateful to the bill's sponsor, Rep. Andrea Salinas, who has been flexible and responsive to our suggestions for improvements as the concept of this legislation has evolved. At this writing, the dash 2 amendment incorporates most of the remedies to concerns expressed by our legal counsel, to ensure that both staff and student protections are embedded in the bill. An exception is in Section 4(a)(E). It should read: "Information about the privacy rights of the student or staff member **and legally recognized exceptions to those rights including any limitations of privacy for internal complaint processes and services** available through the school or school district; and...". {Highlighted section is suggested addition.} We hope that this amendment is allowed either in this committee or in the other chamber, so that the bill is perfected from our perspective.

It remains the case that we have come a long way in our understanding of the nature of harassment and misconduct and have crafted good processes for dealing with complaints. This last step, enabling victims to receive clear information, will make the school environment, just like the environment of all work and education settings, safer.

Thank you so much for amending HB 4150 with the dash 2 amendment and, if possible, this one additional change. We support passing the bill to the floor with a do-pass amendment.