



February 23, 2018

Chair Roblan, Vice Chair Linthicum and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of OR, we respectfully state our support for Senate Bill 4150 A.

The Oregon Healthy Teens Survey was initiated with the recognition that Oregon Healthy Teens are *“fundamental to ensuring that young people arrive at adulthood with the skills, interests, assets, and health habits needed to live healthy, happy, and productive lives in caring relationships with other people. The information gathered in this survey enables schools and communities to know what proportion of their young people are developing successfully and what proportion is having problems. It allows them to assess whether the things they are doing are improving outcomes for young people.”*

The 2017 Oregon Healthy Teens Survey reflects that (1) 6.1% of Oregon’s 11<sup>th</sup> graders report they have been physically forced to have sex without their consent and (2) 12.1% report they have been pressured into sexual activity when they didn’t want to. The reasons for the Healthy Teens Survey are laudable, but it is of no value if the results are simply printed and sufficient action is not forthcoming.

AAUW research has also revealed that according to the US Department of Education’s Civil Rights Data Collection for 2013-14, more than two-thirds of Oregon’s schools reported zero allegations of sexual harassment and bullying. This high rate of zeros simply defies reality, and we believe it points to very real problems in Oregon schools’ reporting systems.

House Bill 4150 A represents a start to a much larger conversation about how we can ensure that young people experience safe environments in which to learn and become successful adults. The bill identifies what information school districts must provide to students and families in the context of an investigation into a claim of sexual harassment. We still need to provide resources that sufficiently support systems and structures that enable K – 12 students to understand the difference between healthy relationships and sexual harassment, and what, how and when to report sexual harassment.

Sincerely,

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