



**Oregon State**  
**University**

**Student Conduct & Community Standards**

Oregon State University  
150 Snell Hall  
Corvallis, Oregon 97331

**P** 541-737-3656

**Website** [studentlife.oregonstate.edu/student-conduct](http://studentlife.oregonstate.edu/student-conduct)

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**Comments on HB 2519**

Chair Doherty, Vice Chairs Alonso Leon and Helt, and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Carol Millie. I serve as the Director of Student Conduct and Community Standards, within the Office of Student Life at Oregon State University. With me today is Elizabeth Kennedy. Elizabeth serves as the Violence Prevention Specialist, for the Department of Prevention and Wellness within Student Health Services at Oregon State University. Together we serve as the co-chairs for Oregon State University's Hazing Prevention and Education sub-group within the Division of Student Affairs.

Our comments today are in support of HB 2519 with the -1 amendments. As you know, hazing is a complicated and complex societal issue that has continued to elude solutions. HB 2519 is a proactive and holistic approach to complement our efforts in preventing and responding to the harmful effects that hazing activities have on the mental health, physical health, and safety of students. HB 2519 will operationalize evidenced-based strategies for the prevention, intervention, and response to hazing behaviors. This multifaceted approach to such a complex issue is poised to lead the way in successfully reducing hazing behaviors from occurring on our collective university campuses.

According to OSU's spring term 2018 National College Health Assessment, 71.4 % of OSU students believe that hazing is so serious on college campuses that something needs to be done and 92 % of OSU students agree that hazing is unacceptable. HB 2519 aligns with how important the topic of hazing is to students and to these students' belief that we need to address the issue proactively.

Being a part of a student club or organization enhances a student's opportunity to learn, work, innovate, and thrive; and hazing behaviors significantly hinder these opportunities. Preventing hazing takes collaboration, communication, and coordination. In requiring that all public universities and community colleges in the state of Oregon adopt written policies, provide training on those policies, and provide a report on the number of hazing incidents reported and investigated, HB 2519 is implementing evidence-based strategies to prevent student organizations from using hazing activities as a way to welcome new members or to teach a club or organization's values, traditions, and history.

Like our peers, OSU has zero tolerance for any form of hazing. OSU's Code of Student Conduct supports that zero tolerance policy. This Code provides a very detailed definition of hazing, examples of prohibited behavior associated with hazing, the process and procedures the university will use for addressing reports of hazing, and the available sanctions if an organization or individual is found responsible for hazing. Like other public universities in the state of Oregon, OSU's practices for addressing the issue of hazing aligns with the proposed expectations of HB 2519.

National data indicates that 95% of hazing incidents go unreported. Additional data indicates that a reason that individuals do not report hazing behavior is that they are unaware of what actually constitutes hazing. HB 2519's expectation that public universities provide training on what constitutes hazing behavior as established in policy is a proactive step towards increasing reporting. Thank you for your commitment to this intricate and difficult issue.

Carol Millie  
Director, Student Conduct & Community Standards  
Oregon State University

Elizabeth Kennedy  
Violence Prevention Specialist  
Oregon State University