

To: Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs Gorsek and Sprenger, and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am here today to provide my support for House Bill 2651 that would designate additional funding for violence prevention education in Oregon. I have spent the last 5 years as a violence prevention educator within Clackamas County schools. The stories that my team hears from students in the classroom demonstrates the importance of teaching about dating violence, sexual assault, and healthy relationships. Our team receives feedback from students on a weekly basis testifying how important this information is to them.

*One student from Lake Oswego Junior High said, "I now have empathy for others who have gone through sexual violence and am aware of how big of a problem it is."*

*When asked which presentation was their favorite, this student from Rex Putnam High School said, "The sexual violence presentation because someone I love was hurt"*

*Another student from Molalla High School said, "I learned that I was sexually assaulted and that it wasn't my fault."*

Our team hears from thousands of middle school and high school students in Clackamas County every year who tell us how much violence prevention education means to them. Even though we count these testimonies as a measure of our success, we know that more work needs to happen in this area.

1. Our program had to turn away 5 schools this year that requested presentations due to a lack of capacity. I can't imagine how many schools across the state are not able to provide this education to their students because they lack the resources.
2. I have personally worked with students in some of our high schools who have disclosed to me their stories of being sexually assaulted and how their school administration mishandled their case and/or blamed them for what happened. Some of these students are still sitting in classrooms with their perpetrators. We need to pass this bill not only to provide students with important information, but also school administrators, principles, and counselors.
3. In my work on the Men's Engagement Committee with the Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force, I know exactly how sparse violence prevention programs are throughout the state. And most of the programs that do exist are struggling to find the funds to function at a consistent capacity.

As an advocate, a violence prevention educator, and a father of two boys; I urge you to pass this bill into law in an effort to keep students safe, and to teach them healthy ways to relate to the people in their lives.

Thank you,

Allyn Bradley: Violence Prevention Coordinator at Clackamas Women's Services