

**The Honorable Jennifer Williamson (Chair), the Honorable Chris Gorsek (Vice Chair),
the Honorable Sherrie Sprenger (Vice Chair) and Members of the House Judiciary
Committee**

Recognizing the value of an ounce of prevention, the Oregon Legislature wisely passed the “Sex Abuse Prevention Instruction” act in 2015, which required schools to provide effective, culturally responsive and trauma informed prevention programs in grades K-12. The trained professionals in Sexual and Domestic Violence centers throughout the state, like Clackamas Women’s Services, are well positioned to provide those prevention programs and our evaluations in counties where prevention programs exist demonstrate that they are effective. However, many of the Sexual and Domestic Violence centers lack the resources to provide prevention programs and, in those centers that are able to provide them, current staffing meets only a fraction of the number of school requests.

HB 2657 will provide a much needed funding stream dedicated to violence prevention education. As a concerned citizen and a Clackamas Women’s Services Board member, I urge your support for this measure, which will have a long-term impact on the crisis of sexual and domestic violence.

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