



March 29, 2019

Chair Williamson, Vice-Chair Sprenger, Vice-Chair Gorsak, and Members of the Committee,

RE: Support for HB 2562, Title IX Coordinators

Children First for Oregon urges support of HB 2562, to provide funding for at least two Title IX Coordinators at the Oregon Department of Education to support school districts across Oregon.

Children First represents the interests of Oregon's nearly 875,000 children and believes that together, with communities and leaders across the state, we can build a state where all children thrive. We work with our more than 110 partner organizations to identify and elevate legislative concepts that will support the needs of Oregon's children. HB 2562 is part of the 2019 Children's Agenda.

The current funding of a .25 position is insufficient to oversee Title IX enforcement and prevention of gender-based harassment and discrimination in all of our K-12 schools.

There is no doubt that gender-based harassment and bullying continue at an alarming rate. According to the most recent Healthy Teens Survey, when asked whether during the past 30 days they had been bullied at or on the way to school with unwanted sexual comments or attention:

- 6.9% of 8th graders and 5.7% of 11th graders said yes
- 6.1% of 8th graders and 2.8% of 11th graders said they had been bullied because someone thought they were gay, lesbian or bisexual
- 2% of 11th graders had given into sexual activity when they didn't want to because of pressure

It's unacceptable that students experience bullying like this, and they deserve a safe space at school, free from harassment. The Oregon Joint Committee on Student Success has recognized the importance of ensuring Oregon students' equal access to all educational opportunities by recommending that ODE add additional 1.75 FTE Title IX Coordinators, to reach two full time Title IX Coordinators. We support that recommendation and HB 2562.

Thank you very much for your attention and service. We request your support of HB 2562.

Sincerely,
Chris Coughlin
Legislative Director