



Women's Crisis Support Team

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Ray Dinkins

March 27, 2019

To: Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs Gorset and Sprenger, and Members of the House Judiciary  
Re: House Bill 2657 Testimony

On behalf of the Board and staff of Women's Crisis Support Team (WCST), I am writing this letter to offer our full support of HB 2657 directing the Department of Justice to administer violence prevention funding program in consultation with Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force. As an agency providing free, comprehensive, primary prevention programming to our area schools and community, the consistent need for additional funding, technical support, and training are always needed and achieving the capacity to meet the requested needs of our community is always a challenge.

For the past decade, WCST has made an organizational and financial commitment to prevention of intimate partner violence. In those years, our program has achieved significant success in promoting healthy relationships, teaching bystander intervention skills, and promoting prosocial norms for the prevention of sexual harassment, sexual assault, and dating and interpersonal violence. WCST specifically provides school based, ongoing positive youth development and prevention activities in two area school districts. WCST employs four prevention educators who currently serve eight high school and middle school environments on a weekly basis. All students receive once a week educational and mentorship programming for no less than 16 weeks in a row. The impact of this programming cannot be understated. Three additional middle schools have requested our prevention program for the 2019-20 school year.

WCST has reached a point in our program delivery where previous students, now married and with families of their own, routinely reach out to us by phone, text, or social media (sometimes they even stop us in the store) to share the positive impact WCST's prevention work has made in their lives and in their relationships. More powerful are the stories often shared by partners of those previous prevention students who share how our work prepared their partners/spouses to be safe, healthy partners. The individual level of feedback has grown such that WCST is considering new ways to engage at the community level of prevention to have a greater impact on climate and policy across Southern Oregon.

All of this work requires considerable funding and support from a variety of sources. In addition to Board support and community fundraising, WCST enjoys significant support from private

*"Dedicated to ending domestic violence and sexual assault through intervention, prevention, education and safe shelter."*

foundations and Rape Prevention Education funding from the AGSATF. Even with this support, there is so much more we could be doing with greater capacity. WCST takes evaluation and continuous quality improvement of our prevention programming seriously, but we are always seeking funding and support for that component of our work. We staff our prevention program with OR Certified Prevention Specialists, and always need additional training and certification funding. Finally, we struggle to even meet the requested needs of our community who is currently asking for additional prevention education modules and educators for elementary level prevention work. All of these programming needs could be explored with support from legislation such as HB 2657.

As part of WCST's community outreach and awareness activities we ask people to STAND, SPEAK, and ACT to prevent violence. Today, I ask you to STAND, SPEAK, and ACT to prevent violence in Oregon with the passage of HB 2657.

Thank you for taking the time from your busy schedule to read this testimony. I know your work is often tireless, and we at WCST appreciate all the ways you already support our work.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ray Dinkins". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Ray Dinkins, Executive Director  
Women's Crisis Support Team  
Josephine County, Oregon



Attn: Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs: Gorsek & Sprenger, and Members of the House Judiciary – House Bill 2657 Testimony

I am writing on behalf of House Bill 2657, as the WCST WINGS Certified Prevention Program Coordinator, an Early Childhood Educator, a community member and a parent. I facilitate and oversee the facilitation of 29 WCST WINGS violence prevention classes within two school districts in Josephine County. Over the past 8 years of facilitating violence prevention classes, I have seen life changing events as a direct result of the work we are doing with our youth in the schools. I have seen students safely remove themselves from abusive relationships, make the decision to no longer self-harm, stop the use of drugs and alcohol, wait to have intimate relations, teach their families the importance of healthy relationships, and help their families achieve safety. Students that begin for the first time to believe that they are valuable, worthy human beings and begin taking better care of themselves and others. I have witnessed friendships form that no one would have ever thought possible, seen students increase their coping and communication skills and so much more. Many students request that we provide classes more than once weekly and often tell us that WINGS is what gets them to school and throughout the school week.

WCST has been conducting prevention work for the past ten years in Josephine County schools at no cost to the school and has substantial community support. Even with the community support, the funding from RPE and other private funders, WCST is unable to work at full capacity without all the right resources and funding that successful violence prevention work needs to succeed.

Youth face issues of violence regardless of race, ethnicity or socio-ecological status. Violence prevention curricula assists students in the navigation of those experiences. It helps students form connections to school, build resilience, build healthy relationships, learn bystander intervention skills, and promotes community norms change towards sexual assault, sexual harassment, and dating violence.

If we as a state do not create adequate funding for violence prevention, we will continue to see the high rates of violence that we are currently experiencing in our society. We will have a continued need for intervention services. We will continue picking up the pieces of broken people, broken homes and broken families. Our youth are ready for this challenge, they are ready to create a safer healthier society, they are capable and eager to create change but this will be impossible for them without the proper resources and education that they need.

Daily, I run into past students that tell me how much the WINGS violence prevention classes have improved the quality of their lives. These comments from students are not just because of the curriculum; it is largely because of the approach that properly educated preventionists take within the classroom. Staff that understands trauma informed practices, restorative justice and the importance of relationship building within their classroom environment. Lack of funding and low wages make it difficult to find properly trained prevention staff to sustain a successful program.

As a parent and grand-parent, I have become almost too aware of the ugliness within our society through this line of work. As with most parents, we hope for a safe healthy community to raise our children in. I truly had no idea at the point of accepting this job, 8 years ago, that our youth were living and experiencing such dire situations. These situations could have been prevented with just a little of the right education. I am a firm believer that violence is preventable and that we all play a part in either supporting it or ending it.

We have absolutely phenomenal youth in our school systems that are just waiting for the proper help to create the change that we are all reaching for. Often times the creativity, energy, intelligence and power of our youth gets overlooked. The passing of this bill will empower thousands of youth across the state. By supporting violence prevention education, we are also lowering the risk factors for substance use, delinquency, teen pregnancy, school dropout and last but not least and what is plaguing our youth at higher rates than imaginable, depression and anxiety.

Thank you for taking the time to read the testimonies provided and your consideration in the passing of House Bill 2657.

Amy Harboldt - Violence Prevention Program Coordinator



Attn: Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs: Gorsek & Sprenger, and Members of the House Judiciary – House Bill 2657 Testimony

I am writing on behalf of Bill 2657, as a prevention educator, a master's level social work student, and a concerned citizen. I currently facilitate 10 weekly WCST WINGS classes within two city schools and four county schools within Josephine County. Throughout these last eight months of presenting violence prevention, I have witnessed the true power that this work holds. On many occasions I have heard students attribute WINGS for their attendance, leaving an abusive relationship, and helping their loved ones identify unhealthy relationships.

As a non-profit, all of our funding comes from outside sources – including RPE funding. WCST has been conducting prevention work for the past ten years and has built a network of support, but this did not come easily. Many programs are unable to get on their feet as a result of little to no funding. WCST WINGS is supported but is still not sufficiently able to reach “true prevention” as a result of lack of resources, such as additional staff to get into more schools, grades, etc.

Prevention education promotes healthy relationships, teaches bystander intervention skills, and promotes change towards sexual assault, sexual harassment, and dating violence. Unfortunately, while working with youth, it has become apparent to me that although these youths need this education, many students have already been exposed to many of these traumas we are attempting to prevent. Through education, traumatized youth recognize what they have been through and develop ways to heal and prevent further occurrences. If resources were provided to present prevention education to all ages, violence norms would begin to shift.

Without a sound source of funding for prevention, violence will continue to occur at these high levels we are seeing, and our intervention teams will continue to be overworked. Many prevention programs have been working hand in hand throughout Oregon to remain on their feet, however, proper infrastructure, guidance, resources, and technical assistance is lacking for these programs.

Throughout all of the intervention programs I have worked with, I have never seen such progression for a community. Trained prevention educators increase disclosures, increasing intervention services provided, and increasing community safety. Oregon can be violence free and it starts with steps, such as passing this bill.

Thank you for your time and your support, this bill could change many lives.

Lindsey Walasek – Violence Prevention Educator



Attn: Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs: Gorsek & Sprenger, and Members of the House Judiciary – House Bill 2657 Student Testimony

My name is Logan Deere, I am a youth facilitator for the WINGS program. I enthusiastically support the promotion and passing of House Bill 2657. I feel as though this bill could not only increase the possible outreach and quality of our program locally in Josephine County, but could do so across the state if enacted. The funding could help with community outreach projects, funding for school engagement activities and/or materials for curriculum. I believe I hold a unique perspective on this topic. Not only am I an educator in the field, I was also once a student of the same classes I now facilitate.

As a high school student, I was able to partake in the classes offered to me by our local agency, WCST. We met and held class once a week for the whole school year. There was not a single week where I was not excited to attend the class, along with many of my peers who chose to take part. We learned a lot about different topics, all pertaining to healthy and unhealthy relationships, various forms of abuse, bullying, and many other things. Even years after leaving school, I still remember those days quite well, even before becoming an educator.

Now with my position as a facilitator in this line of work, I get to see the other side of it. I get to give that same experience to students, which I know is so important. I know the classes changed my view on many things that we covered, and I feel I am a better person and better community member because of it. With that in mind, I hope that most, if not all of our students take something away from our classes and use it to better understand and acknowledge issues of violence in their lives and address them in a better way than they may have before.

I strongly feel that House Bill 2657 should be passed. I believe that domestic violence, sexual assault, bullying, harassment, child abuse and interpersonal violence are all prevalent issues within our communities. These are not issues that will go away on their own; they must be made known to our community, old and young. The youth are particularly important in this field because they are the tomorrow of our generation. They will be the ones who, with the support of this work, will change things for the better.

Thank you for taking the time to read this-

Sincerely,

Logan Deere, WCST WINGS Prevention Educator



Attn: Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs: Gorsek & Sprenger, and Members of the House Judiciary – House Bill 2657 Student Testimony

Having the opportunity to attend the WINGS class has given me so much information that I use in my everyday life. Out of all of the useful information that I have received and learned over the past four years that I have attended school, this class is the most useful. The most meaningful piece of information I've learned is about dating violence. For the past year and a half, I had been trapped in an abusive relationship. Once I was able to escape the relationship, my eyes were really opened to the fact that I was not alone. There are so many people, teens specifically, who are stuck in abusive relationships. Without the help and support from the WINGS class, I am not sure where I would be.

The fact that Josephine County is one of the only counties that have a yearlong class provided seems almost impossible to me. I fully believe that every single school should have a program like ours provided to students. Some of my favorite lessons that I have been taught in this class are about healthy relationships, unhealthy relationships, types of abuse, red flags to look for in a relationship, body images, consent, self-destructive behaviors, and many more. These lessons are so important and they should be provided and taught in every school. Many students and myself have gained so much from this class. There are several students who have graduated who I am still in contact with and they still use the information and lessons in their everyday lives.

The impact that this class has given me is so large, and I hope that you consider to pass this bill. Having the classes available to all schools will not only help our communities, but our country. Thank you for your time, I really appreciate you reading our letters. Getting this bill passed will benefit so many individuals across Oregon.

Thank you again for your time,  
Morgan Roberts, Grants Pass High School.





Attn: Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs: Gorsek & Sprenger, and Members of the House Judiciary - House Bill 2657 Student Testimony

This education is so important for me and so many other students. It gives us the option for a safe space that also offers an education that regular schooling and some parents don't. WINGS has made me solidify my morals, beliefs, and boundaries that I would've not otherwise until further in my life. It has helped and improved the relationships that I have. This includes friends, boyfriends, parents, authority, and even strangers.

Because of the things I've learned, I have protected myself from dangerous situations, gotten out of an abusive situation, and has helped me out throughout my daily life. I hope that every kid and teen can be offered this, because not everyone is told this kind of things when growing up.

Ignorance can be dangerous and not understanding a situation can cause mistakes or bad experiences. This should not have to happen.

Bethany Gillen - Grants Pass High School





Attn: Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs: Gorsek & Sprenger, and Members of the House Judiciary - House Bill 2657 Student Testimony

We need these classes to help the general population of students who grew up in a broken environment like I did through my years of growing up, I felt so alone. This class helped me connect with more people who were like me and it made me realize I'm not the only one who faces similar problems every day. This is an epidemic that schools everywhere face.

Students everywhere feel lonely or even hopeless because they have no one to project their problems to. At home, no one listens to them, so kids lash out and push everyone away. This class is necessary to improve student lives and it is major for it be once a week. It taught me valuable lessons in how to cope with the challenges in my life.

With love,

Aramis Stark, Grants Pass High School Student



Attn: Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs: Gorsek & Sprenger, and Members of the House Judiciary - House Bill 2657 Student Testimony

Prevention is important and learning prevention in these classes, because as a teenager, I can grow up into a stronger adult through the lessons. I have become more aware of myself, I have made more truly adult responsible decisions, and I have become a more compassionate leader, family member, friend, and person.

I have specifically felt the effects of this class in my life in how I dealt with my father's cancer. Also, I have shared the lessons I have learned in this class with others and they have made me aware that it also has affected their lives.

These topics we talk about and share are paramountly important for any teenager, or any young person. Having direction, inciting goals, and being aware of my path into a young man are all things that I have been helped with through this class.

I look forward to every Thursday for this class meeting, I have for the past four years. The comradery and community it creates, is for many, medicine. I cannot stress how important and helpful these classes are, they are now part of who I am.

Sincerely,

Christoph Sembach, Grants Pass High School Student



Attn: Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs: Gorsek & Sprenger, and Members of the House Judiciary - House Bill 2657 Student Testimony

These classes are so important and need to be part of the curriculum for so many reasons. The classes have taught me how to look for red flags in relationships. Being able to recognize these have helped me point them out in not only my own relationships but also my family's relationships and my friends.

Having access to these classes has given me a community of people I can lean on, for example, Amy and my fellow WCST wings members have helped me through so much when my sister tried taking her life or when I was going to court after being sexually assaulted by my step-father at the time or when my uncle sexually assaulted me.

The classes have helped me through so much and I honestly don't know where I would be without these classes, they have helped me save my family and myself. I hope the classes become yearlong in all of Oregon so everyone has the opportunity to this much needed knowledge and lifesaving support system.

Third Year Student - Grants Pass High School



Attn: Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs: Gorsek & Sprenger, and Members of the House Judiciary – House Bill 2657 Student Testimony

I am much better off, as a human being, thanks to youth action team and young men's class. Nowhere else have I had the opportunity and resources to learn about inter-human relations. Whether it be romantic or otherwise, the classes aim to create a safer environment.

Young men's class taught me red flags to look out for in all of my relationships with others. Youth action team then went on to really get into detail about the dangers of abusive relationships, different forms of abuse, and how to get out of the situation yourself, or to help others out of the situation.

I'm far better off as a young man and I feel well-equipped to assist others if they need it. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Trenton Burke-leiser – Grants Pass High School



Attn: Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs: Gorsek & Sprenger, and Members of the House Judiciary – House Bill 2657 Student Testimony

This organization and class has helped me learn more about myself and the other people around me. This class is very important for young people to learn because this class provides the information young and old people need to learn.

These things and information include learning the respects that are needed to give to everybody no matter what gender, nationality, religious beliefs, identification, anything! It's also somewhere, where we learn the signs to early abuse and early sexual intentions of people and the red flags.

This class has also brought me a place where I can share my experiences and choices and I get feedback from people that respect me and listen to me. This is a safe place for me and it's always something I look forward to every week. It's a great opportunity for young minds to absorb all the information they can about serious things.

Thank you.

Grace Johnson – Grants Pass High School



Attn: Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs: Gorsek & Sprenger, and Members of the House Judiciary - House Bill 2657 Student Testimony

I believe that this bill should be taken into consideration because the WINGS class/program is very important, not just for me, but for all students. This class has helped me in more than one way. For example, when we had our dating violence lesson, and it finally helped me.

It made me realize how not good of a relationship I was in. They even helped walk me through the steps and actions I should take to break it off. I think that if kids are taught this, a lot of things in our society would change for the better. For example, the statistics of dating abuse wouldn't necessarily drop, but it might change a little considering the people would know the red flags and end things before they got too serious.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Echo Morris - Grants Pass High School



Attn: Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs: Gorsek & Sprenger, and Members of the House Judiciary - House Bill 2657 Student Testimony

As a fourth year student in this program I advocate for this class highly. Over the years in this program I have learned many lessons that I would not have been exposed to anywhere else. Classes with lessons on dating violence, sexual abuse, and healthy teen relationships help educate me and my peers on real life situations.

It is necessary for more students to be exposed to this type of curriculum as teaching teens how to make good decisions to ensure healthy relationships, which is very important to ensure a happy future. Personally this class helped me identify unhealthy and abusive relationships in my peers and I and also taught me the steps to get out of an unhealthy relationship.

The students in Josephine County are at an advantage by being given the opportunity to attend these classes almost every week.

Adriana Dietz - Grants Pass High School





Attn: Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs: Gorsek & Sprenger, and Members of the House Judiciary – House Bill 2657 Student Testimony

The WINGS class is very important to me. It's very open and makes me feel welcome to express my voice and opinion. It also educates me on important topics that most people may not know about.

More schools should have this option for a class because they need to be educated about these topics. People need to know that it's okay to be different. It's okay to ask for help and to reach out to people when you're in danger. It's also okay not to be okay. It is important for people to know this.

This class also provides a safe haven to share your stories and connect to those who feel the same. I truly feel that I can be myself in this class and firmly believe it is important to teach in schools all around. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mariah Sweet – Grants Pass High School



Attn: Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs: Gorsek & Sprenger, and Members of the House Judiciary - House Bill 2657 Student Testimony

I believe that WCST WINGS Violence prevention class is extremely important to have in our school systems. I have had the opportunity to be involved with the classes in the last four years and I can honestly say it has changed my life. I could not see myself where I am today without these classes. They have helped me through very tough situations. It has also helped me to help other people who haven't been fortunate enough to be in this class. I have been able to help one of my closest friends out of an abusive relationship. I think it is very important for every school to have these classes. I can see they have made a major difference in everybody's life who has taken them.

Lily Harley - Grants Pass High School.



Attn: Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs: Gorsek & Sprenger, and Members of the House Judiciary – House Bill 2657 Student Testimony

School life is toxic and difficult. It's hard to live a happy and healthy life with all of the social factors and such, and a lot of people are just ill informed on how to maintain healthy relationships. My young men's WINGS classes have helped me deal with these pressures immensely in a happy and comfortable environment.

It has also taught me healthy coping mechanisms and new positive ways to look at life, which helps me maintain my security in a chaotic school. If these programs can help the privileged and lucky in life like me, then I'm sure it would help the underprivileged and worrying lost in life people as much, if not more.

It's essential we use our schools to establish these great platforms, even if it changes just one person's life, it will be worth it.

Damon Meufeld – Grants Pass High School



Attn: Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs: Gorsek & Sprenger, and Members of the House Judiciary - House Bill 2657 Student Testimony

Violence prevention education has impacted the lives of many young people including myself.

At one point in time I was a 15 year old girl who had no idea I was in the most abusive relationship of my life. And nothing could have prepared me for the turn it was about to take. However, it could have been much worse if I had not joined the WINGS classes at my high school. In these classes I learned how to identify the abuse I was going through, and it provided me with the tools I needed to escape my worst nightmare.

Funding for these classes would make these crucial lessons much more accessible to the people who need it, and the people who can use it later in life when they're faced with these unfortunate situations.

Rani Belle Wells- Former Grants Pass High School Student



Attn: Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs: Gorsek & Sprenger, and Members of the House Judiciary - House Bill 2657 Student Testimony

As a graduated high school student who was apart of WINGS for 4 years, I learned and relearned many healthy and unhealthy habits for relationships. We were taught how to identify positive and negative traits and how we can incorporate and/or remove those from our lives. This year has been my first year graduated from high school and away from WINGS classes, but I use the tools we learned regularly in my everyday life. I have been able to create long lasting relationships with many people, as well as learning a pretty good sense of self-worth. Coming together as peers and learning about red flags, healthy relationships, coping mechanisms, and so much more has set a very good foundation for any sort of relationships that may come into my life. I know what i do and do not deserve, how to properly handle a scary situation and how to be a functioning and healthy part of a relationship. I cannot thank Amy and anybody else who is apart of this program enough for everything that they have taught me and for everything that I still have the potential to learn.

Gabby Brouillette- Former Grants Pass High School Student



Attn: Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs: Gorsek & Sprenger, and Members of the House Judiciary – House Bill 2657 Student Testimony

The WCST has given me the tools both through my adolescence and adult life, that I could have never imagined I would need. The support I received in such a small diverse community, still astonishes me. I have learned how to identify and react to unsafe or potentially unsafe situations. I now have the confidence and tools to help those around me whom are struggling. I received a tremendous amount of support in some of the most challenging years of my life and I am forever grateful. The WCST isn't just a community, it's a family. I cannot properly put into words for you how much this community has impacted my life over the years, but I can confidently tell you that this has played a very important role in my life and I can only hope others are given the same opportunity. Thank you for helping me build my foundation, I am a stronger woman because of you.

Chloe Harris- Former Grants Pass High School Student



Attn: Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs: Gorsek & Sprenger, and Members of the House Judiciary - House Bill 2657 Student Testimony

Coming to WINGS provides a safe environment for high schoolers to learn about and get involved in real world issues like social stigmatization, LGBTQ+ phobia, abuse, pornography, trafficking, and so many more things that daily standardized curriculum lacks. In a town/school with such closeminded, often traditional ideals, a judgement-free, accepting place like this is important to provide acknowledgement of such real life topics. Students need to feel comfortable discovering and living in their identity and places like WINGS provide a no-boundaries place. Without constriction when NVHS and GP, OR often force expectations on people our age. My favorite lesson has been the one about stereotypes, providing perspective on typical judgements and assumptions.

3rd year- North Valley High School Student





Attn: Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs: Gorsek & Sprenger, and Members of the House Judiciary - House Bill 2657 Student Testimony

I come to WINGS because after a long stressful week it is something that I look forward to because it is such a safe and loving place. I also like coming because I personally have seen people in my family go through an abusive relationship and if I can learn how to have good relationships maybe I won't experience the same thing, or be able to help others who are in abusive relationships. The person in my family who was in an abusive relationship is very protective over me and wants me to learn about this stuff and I do too. Through WINGS I have learned about a lot. We have talked about what consent really is and how to give it. We have learned about cycles of abuse and how to know what a healthy relationship is. We have also learned about stereotypes and how to escape those stereotypes and hatred. Please consider passing the bill that will help other students receive this education.

2nd year- North Valley High School Student



Attn: Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs: Gorsek & Sprenger, and Members of the House Judiciary - House Bill 2657 Student Testimony

Violence prevention education has impacted the lives of many young people including myself.

At one point in time I was a 15 year old girl who had no idea I was in the most abusive relationship of my life. And nothing could have prepared me for the turn it was about to take. However, it could have been much worse if I had not joined the WINGS classes at my high school. In these classes I learned how to identify the abuse I was going through, and it provided me with the tools I needed to escape my worst nightmare.

Funding for these classes would make these crucial lessons much more accessible to the people who need it, and the people who can use it later in life when they're faced with these unfortunate situations.

Madison Haskell- Former Grants Pass High School Student



Attn: Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs: Gorsek & Sprenger, and Members of the House Judiciary - House Bill 2657 Student Testimony

To provide this class for other schools would allow students to have outlets. This will also bring change into the school to help make it a place where students feel safe and not attacked. The WINGS class has helped me cope better with my depression and anxiety. When I don't have this class I get sad because I miss Amy and the lessons I get.

The information I get can help me throughout my life. Amy is a person that not only is a teacher, but a friend. WINGS makes kids feel welcome and wanted, what is said in the space, stays. Kids can go and make friends and recognize things they never saw in their world. People should be able to experience this to have to see the world as it is.

Thank you for your time for supporting this bill!

Sierra, Grants Pass High School Student



Attn: Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs: Gorsek & Sprenger, and Members of the House Judiciary - House Bill 2657 Student Testimony

I think that these types of classes/groups are pretty important in letting students express themselves, and learn about things that are not always talked about. It also helps students to get to know others they may have never met, I personally have made a few friends going to WINGS classes.

It really gives students the option to be part of a class that can help the community and others. They're also good for exploring topics like teen dating and domestic violence, so that people can just be more aware of it. I think WINGS is pretty important and should be supported across the state.

Ramsey Beltran - Grants Pass High School



Attn: Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs: Gorsek & Sprenger, and Members of the House Judiciary - House Bill 2657 Student Testimony

This education could teach kids what not to do in a bad situation, like if a child was in an abusive relationship, they could learn how to prevent conflict and get rid of the person without getting harmed. This program could change people's future because it teaches them how to communicate and not make a situation worse, like most people, but teach them how to do the right thing if they are in a bad situation.

Amy helps us with school stuff, with the community, with our school, and with personal things too. Thank you for taking this program into consideration.

Lauren - Grants Pass High School



Attn: Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs: Gorsek & Sprenger, and Members of the House Judiciary - House Bill 2657 Student Testimony

WCST WINGS has taught me so much about life, from teen dating violence and prevention. This class has helped me so much by just having a place to talk about life and learn about how life is for everyone. Sexual abuse and dating violence is a big issue for children and having classes like WINGS is the start of mass prevention.

This class not only helps by learning about child abuse and sexual abuse, but also by giving victims a place to have their story heard. Having classes like WINGS not only state-wide, but nation-wide would help child abuse and dating abuse tremendously.

Cameron Beagleuy, Grants Pass High School Student



Attn: Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs: Gorsek & Sprenger, and Members of the House Judiciary – House Bill 2657 Student Testimony

WINGS class helped me realize my full potential as a person. It has taught me to expect more from all my relationships, romantic and platonic. I have been taking the classes for four years and my older sister took them for four years also. We both learned so much that has changed our lives for the better.

The class has become a second family and a support system of friends that has helped me through so much and without them, I wouldn't know what I would do. This class also helped me realize who I am. Last year we had a gender and sexuality lesson and I had a realization that I was female presenting non-binary.

Since I have realized my true gender identity, I have been so much happier. One year later my class was the second class of people I came out to. Amy, our teacher, was so supportive and I felt much happiness for having such a great class of emotionally intelligent kids.

Sincerely yours,

Jo Berry, Grants Pass High School Student





Attn: Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs: Gorsek & Sprenger, and Members of the House Judiciary – House Bill 2657 Student Testimony

WCST WINGS classes have impacted my life in a big way. They have taught me the signs of abusive and toxic relationships and what to look out for in myself and in other people too. The women/men that I come across on the street or the women/men that I have come to know and are surrounded by everyday. Class has shown me that there is a light at the end of the tunnel and that you can get help and escape a dangerous and hard relationship. Resources are out there.

Amelia Hostkoetter- Former Grants Pass High School Student



Attn: Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs: Gorsek & Sprenger, and Members of the House Judiciary - House Bill 2657 Student Testimony

During my time in WINGS, I learned a lot of important and amazing things. Not only was Amy an awesome instructor, but the girls in my class were absolutely amazing. They were so helpful. We gave each other advice, and traded numbers so we could text or call each other anytime. During my time in WINGS, I learned a lot. This class helped me get out of my abusive and unhealthy relationship. This class is so important, and should be at all schools. It helps more than anyone could know, unless they experienced it.

Mackenzie Fuller- Grants Pass High School



Attn: Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs: Gorsek & Sprenger, and Members of the House Judiciary – House Bill 2657 Student Testimony

The WINGS violence prevention program is very important to provide to all students. People need to know how to identify warning signs and how to stay safe in a relationship, to realize that you can escape a bad or unsafe relationship could save someone a very horrifying trauma or even a life. Today relationships in high school are so unimportant to high-schooler's that someone could be in a relationship and not realize that the other person is very unhealthy for the other. Young people around the world need to be able to notice and identify the unsafe and dangerous cons of a relationship.

Thank you for your consideration.

Maddelyn Milder – Grants Pass High School Student



Attn: Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs: Gorsek & Sprenger, and Members of the House Judiciary - House Bill 2657 Student Testimony

The WINGS classes have been incredibly influential and essential for students that have gone through them. These classes bring important knowledge about not only oneself in such an important developmental time in life, but also to future relationships and healthy connections. These classes bring knowledge and power to every student that goes through them, especially those whose home environment haven't been conducive to healthy self image. Students are the future and these classes bring about a positive and important knowledge to combat the extremely unhealthy societal influences in the modern age of technology.

Jurney Martin- 4 yrs in WINGS and a member of the WINGS Action Team

Former Grants Pass High School Student



Attn: Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs: Gorsek & Sprenger, and Members of the House Judiciary – House Bill 2657 Student Testimony

Hello my name is Cyrah Manuel and I'm nineteen years old. Last June 2018 I graduated from Grants Pass High School. I currently live in Grants Pass Oregon. Today I'm going to be telling you why funding violence prevention education is worth it. Over the four years I was in the WCST WINGS classes I was also on the WINGS Action Team for two of those years. My freshman year I dated a very abusive guy and I didn't know how I should've been treated. One of the first weeks in women's class we talked about red flags such as yelling, punching the wall right next to you, slamming the door, cussing at you, and so much more, sadly. I finally realized that I needed to get away and find my own self worth. My junior year I was sexually assaulted by a friend I was beaten and forced to do things to him. For over a year, because I didn't want to be judged, I didn't want any "drama", I didn't tell anyone. I finally told the police and my parents I knew I also needed to tell the other girls in WINGS class to have extra support around me. I was loved in every which way, surrounded with compassion and support. Phone calls and texts and lunch dates and walks. I learned so much more in this class than any other class I had in high school. There's absolutely no drama we're all there for the right reasons. You see WINGS classmates in the hall you smile and talk, sleepovers and so much more. I graduated and I still stay connected to the girls that are still in high school and those that graduated with me. It's a sisterhood, we all have each other's backs. I wouldn't have learned anything if it wasn't for my amazing teacher Amy, she goes over the moon and back for her students. She shows them that we're all human and we're going to make mistakes. She cares for everyone of us. If I could write a three page paper on how Amy changed my life I would and I could but we don't have time for that. But anyways thank you so much for reading. Please support this bill.

Sincerely

Cyrah Manuel- Former Grants Pass High School Student



Attn: Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs: Gorsek & Sprenger, and Members of the House Judiciary – House Bill 2657 Student Testimony

WINGS classes have taught me so many valuable skills. Because of the prevention education that I received, I have become a better and healthier person. I have used many of the things that I learned in WINGS classes in my life post graduation.

- One of the things that I learned about was different types of communication: Passive, Aggressive, Passive/Aggressive, and Assertive. After receiving this lesson, I have been able to make sure that I am assertive when handling a situation, and in doing so I have become more outspoken and situations tend to be handled easily and without conflict or misunderstanding.

- Another lesson we had was called, “SUDS Level Check,” and it explained how sometimes anger (or any feeling) can be like a shaken bottle of soda. If the cap is taken off too soon after the incident (being shaken in this case), then the soda will fizz over/explode. This is an analogy to reacting to a situation when it’s still fresh; Your reaction to the incident will be strong. If you wait until the fizz dissipates a little before taking the cap off of the bottle, then it doesn’t explode. Sometimes, it’s better to take a minute before reacting.

I believe that funding prevention education is extremely important, and helpful. It will have a great impact.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my feelings on why this bill is so important.

-Kaitlin H- Former Grants Pass High School Student

### Risk Factors for Adolescent Problem Behavior

| Risk Factors  | Substance Abuse | Delinquency | Teen Pregnancy | School Drop-Out | Violence | Depression & Anxiety |
|---|-----------------|-------------|----------------|-----------------|----------|----------------------|
| <b>Community</b>  |                 |             |                |                 |          |                      |
| Availability of Drugs   | ✓               |             |                |                 | ✓        |                      |
| Availability of Firearms  |                 | ✓           |                |                 | ✓        |                      |
| Community Laws and Norms Favorable Toward Drug Use, Firearms, and Crime | ✓               | ✓           |                |                 | ✓        |                      |
| Media Portrayals of Violence  |                 |             |                |                 | ✓        |                      |
| Transitions and Mobility  | ✓               | ✓           |                | ✓               | ✓        | ✓                    |
| Low Neighborhood Attachment and Community Disorganization               | ✓               | ✓           |                |                 | ✓        |                      |
| Extreme Economic Deprivation  | ✓               | ✓           | ✓              | ✓               | ✓        |                      |
| <b>Family</b>   |                 |             |                |                 |          |                      |
| Family History of the Problem Behavior                                  | ✓               | ✓           | ✓              | ✓               | ✓        | ✓                    |
| Family Management Problems  | ✓               | ✓           | ✓              | ✓               | ✓        | ✓                    |
| Family Conflict   | ✓               | ✓           | ✓              | ✓               | ✓        | ✓                    |
| Favorable Parental Attitudes and Involvement in the Problem Behavior    | ✓               | ✓           |                |                 | ✓        |                      |
| <b>School</b>   |                 |             |                |                 |          |                      |
| Academic Failure Beginning in Late Elementary School                    | ✓               | ✓           | ✓              | ✓               | ✓        | ✓                    |
| Lack of Commitment to School  | ✓               | ✓           | ✓              | ✓               | ✓        |                      |
| <b>Individual/Peer</b>  |                 |             |                |                 |          |                      |
| Early and Persistent Antisocial Behavior                                | ✓               | ✓           | ✓              | ✓               | ✓        | ✓                    |
| Rebelliousness  | ✓               | ✓           |                | ✓               | ✓        |                      |
| Friends Who Engage in the Problem Behavior                              | ✓               | ✓           | ✓              | ✓               | ✓        |                      |
| Gang Involvement  | ✓               | ✓           |                |                 | ✓        |                      |
| Favorable Attitudes Toward the Problem Behavior                         | ✓               | ✓           | ✓              | ✓               | ✓        |                      |
| Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior                                | ✓               | ✓           | ✓              | ✓               | ✓        |                      |
| Constitutional Factors  | ✓               | ✓           |                |                 | ✓        | ✓                    |



## Open-ended data analysis of 484 Josephine County WINGS students

| SMART Indicators   | Number of students meeting SMART indicators | Percentage of students meeting SMART indicators |
|--|---|---|
| 60% of student reports feeling safe in WINGS classes, that they do not feel judged in class and can be themselves.   | 330   | 68.18%  |
| 50% of students report a sense of community, unity, closer connection to peers, making new friends, no longer feeling alone, increased sense of belonging. | 344   | 71.07%  |
| 40% of students report an increase in self-confidence, increased sense of independence, increase in maturity, personal growth.                             | 348   | 71.90%  |
| 35% of students report an increased sense of self-respect/self-worth   | 293   | 60.53%  |
| 40% of students report improved communication skills   | 349   | 72.10%  |
| 20% of students report repairing relationships with friends/family members   | 85  | 17.56%  |
| 30% of students report managing anger in a healthier way than before, improved coping skills   | 324   | 66.94%  |
| 30% of students report an increased ability to stand up for themselves and set boundaries  | 240   | 49.58%  |

|   |     |        |
|---|-----|--------|
| 40% of students report they feel that their voice is heard in class and they feel supported   | 341 | 70.45% |
| 30% of students report they are less judgemental, changed their view of others, more considerate of the feelings of others, thinking before they say things | 179 | 36.98% |
| 20% of students report they have learned to be respectful of diverse opinions in class  | 135 | 27.89% |
| 40% of students report making healthier decisions, choosing healthier friendships/relationships, taking better care of themselves                           | 349 | 72.10% |
| 20% of students report WINGS class is the highlight of their school day/week, they want class more often  | 324 | 66.94% |
| 20% of students report they wouldn't have made it through school without WINGS class, their main drive to get to school was class                           | 26  | 5.37%  |
| 1% of students report they feel that they wouldn't still be alive if it weren't for their participation in WINGS class                                      | 3   | 0.61%  |



# WINGS

Youth face complex issues, regardless of socioeconomic status, race, or ethnicity. WINGS, a school-based prevention program, creates a safe environment for students to explore and evaluate their own experiences. WCST's trauma-responsive violence prevention approach uses a three-tiered universal prevention strategy. WINGS classes help students build skills to become and remain healthy individuals in all areas of their lives. The classes help students develop early school connections, build resilience, and be emotionally, physically, and cognitively competent individuals. Classes are extremely relational and are supported with ongoing mentorship and service learning opportunities.

WINGS assists students in the following areas:

- Understanding the root causes of violence
- Effective communication
- Media literacy
- Awareness of peer and cultural promotion of violence and how to respond to it
- Reducing bias towards race and diversity
- Preventing bullying
- Practicing cyber-safety
- Developing healthy teen relationships
- Taking personal responsibility and leadership
- Setting boundaries and goals

## Stand. Speak. Act. Know Your Role.

Women's Crisis Support Team (WCST) WINGS (Positive Youth Development Program) helps Josephine County youth identify and address sources of violence in their daily lives. Students receive mentoring and are challenged to evaluate their own thoughts, attitudes, and actions regarding violence. WCST is recognized statewide and nationally as a leader in providing ongoing, school-based prevention.

WCST is dedicated to ending domestic abuse and sexual assault through intervention, prevention, education, and safe shelter.

To reach WCST regarding Community Education and Violence Prevention Education contact:  
Prevention Program Coordinator 541-476-3877  
or amy@wcstjoco.org

*"YMW has really improved the quality of my life. The lessons inspired me to stop the self-destructive behaviors that I didn't even realize I was doing. I have been sober and abstinent for 4 months now and am no longer in an abusive relationship. I think YMW should be mandatory for every teenager. It changed the direction my life was headed."* —GPHS YWL STUDENT

*"YMW has made a huge impact on my life. It has given me a way to learn and want to. It also allows a scheduled time for me to work on myself as a person and better myself. Our conversation about Power and Control changed me. I realized the things that I have done were attributes of a man that I did not want to be. I want to be someone of real respect. Any relationship I am interacting with should feel as though we can share power."*  
—GPHS YMW STUDENT



541-476-3877

[www.wcstjoco.org](http://www.wcstjoco.org)



# WINGS

## Positive Youth Development Program

Violence is preventable. We all play a role.

## KNOW YOUR ROLE.

**STAND** with survivors of violence.

**SPEAK** in ways that promote justice and equality.

**ACT** to create safe, healthy, educated communities.



# WINGS | Where Individuals Navigate Growth and Safety

## WING 1

### Freshman Success (FS)

Students are more likely to engage in healthy behaviors and succeed academically when they feel connected to school. Second to family, school connectedness is the strongest protective factor for youth to decrease substance use, school absenteeism, early sexual initiation, violence, and unintentional injury. The FS program is designed to help students navigate their environment and connect with others through interactive group activities, peer-to-peer conversations, and empowering students to make healthy life decisions.

Subjects addressed include: gender stereotypes, friendships/relationships, impact of substance use, healthy relationships and early warning signs of dating violence, self-regulation, standing up for what is right, and emotional health and well-being.

## WING 2

### Young Women's Wings (YWW) and Young Men's Wings (YMW)

These classes offer more in-depth instruction for students who want to build self-awareness, character, strength, and community. Students develop skills that reduce societal violence and create physical and emotional safety for all. YWW and YMW promote healthy relationships and behaviors. Subjects addressed include: body image, communication/self-regulation skills, oppression, stereotypes, power dynamics, diversity, racism, media literacy, cyber safety, consent, setting personal boundaries, and goal setting.



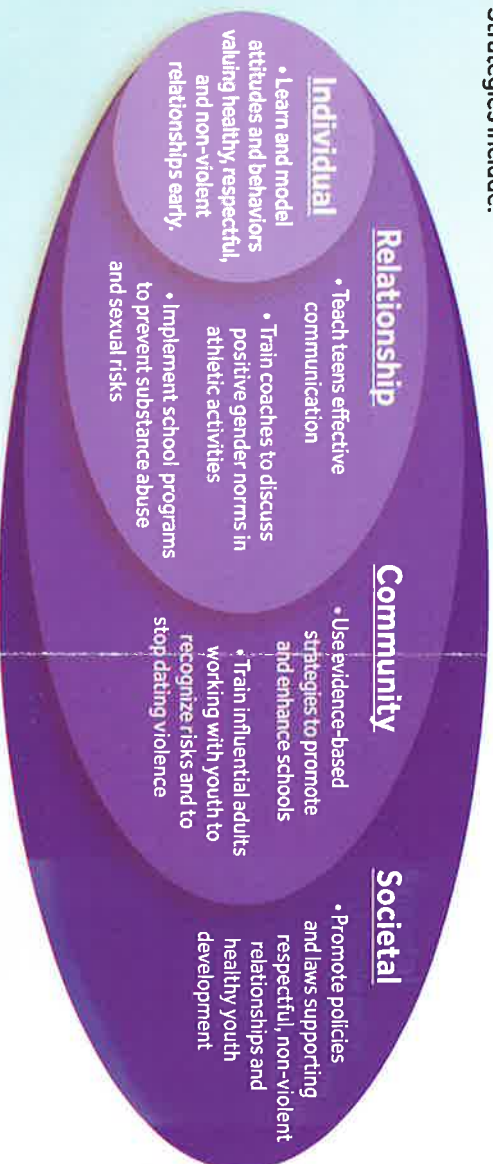
## WING 3

### Wings Action Team (WAT) and Mentors

Students who join the WAT are provided many leadership and service opportunities. WAT students come together to reduce violence and build community. They work to raise awareness, encourage others, and set an example for a violence-free community. Students have completed at least one year of violence prevention curricula before joining the team. Each year the WAT members take the lead in creating campaigns that promote a safe, healthy environment within homes, schools, and communities.

*"Being on the Youth Action Team gave me the opportunity to actually be a part of and help our community. I have loved feeling like I am helping in some way and it has been an amazing experience. I am also more confident as a bystander and have learned ways that I can take action in my community. YAT has made my life busier but in a good way because now when I grow up, I can look back and say that I was involved and was a part of something so important." — GPHS FS STUDENT*

**The WINGS program is built on change at all levels.**  
Strategies include:



Learn more about teen dating violence prevention from CDC:  
[www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/teen\\_dating\\_violence.html](http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/teen_dating_violence.html)

WCST's Prevention Program is built upon the CDC's Public Health Model and works closely with the Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force and the CDC to continually improve all areas of violence prevention programming.

