

Testimony in support of HB2657-2
House Judiciary Committee
Submitted by: The Prevention & Education Subcommittee of the
Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force
March 29, 2019

Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs Gorsek and Sprenger, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Prevention and Education Committee of The Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force, **we write to urge your support of HB2657-2.**

The Prevention and Education Committee (PEC) is a statewide collaborative of multidisciplinary partners working to improve and support the implementation and evaluation of effective, evidence-informed, best-practice violence prevention efforts throughout the state of Oregon. PEC is tasked with implementing Oregon's state sexual violence prevention plan: [Recommendations for Preventing Sexual Violence in Oregon: A Plan of Action](#), and also serves as the statewide advisory body for the Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) program in Oregon.

HB2657 is a critical step moving towards healthier and safer communities for all people in Oregon. We understand and identify that lack of prevention funding in Oregon is one of the top barriers to successfully addressing violence in our communities throughout the state. This is one of the most critical investments necessary to support local community collaborations to better prevent all forms of violence across the lifespans of Oregonians.

Sexual and other forms of violence and abuse are preventable; but only if we invest in helping Oregon's communities understand, identify, engage in, and advocate for healthier relationships, healthier environments, and safer communities for all people in our state. **Oregonians need the Legislature to invest \$3 million in dedicated funding** to ensure capacity for community-based non-profits, culturally specific, and tribal government programs to implement violence prevention education in K-12 and other community settings.

We are grateful to The Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force for their contribution to and reinforcement of primary prevention strategies to address abuse, neglect, and violence in our communities. We fully support their efforts to expand Oregonian's abilities to better prevent violence in our Oregon communities. For these reasons, we urge your support of HB2657.

Respectfully,

Members of the Statewide Prevention and Education Committee