

# Oregon Student Association



May 6, 2019

To: House Committee on Judiciary  
From: Phoenix Rosa  
RE: Senate Bill 576, Kaylee's Law

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

My name is Phoenix Rosa, my pronouns are She, Her, and Hers, and I am a student at Central Oregon Community College. Currently, I am a first year studying materials science, mechanical engineering, and political science. I am also part of the student government at COCC, serving as the Multi-Campus Director of Campus Affairs. I am here today to testify in support of SB 576, also known as Kaylee's Law.

When I began in student government at COCC earlier this year, I learned about the tragic death of Kaylee Sawyer. I was not told about this from campus safety or administrators on my campus, but rather my peers within student government. Additionally, during a recent course that required us to go outside, we walked past Kaylee's memorial, and most of the students I was with did not know who Kaylee Sawyer was or what had happened to her. How can we keep ourselves safe from potential dangers if we aren't even made aware of the risks? As a woman who spends many late evenings on campus, I have every right to feel that I am being protected by campus security. However, ever since I learned about what had happened to Kaylee Sawyer, this is not the case. I do not feel protected by my campus security because they are not even acknowledging their responsibilities in this case. As a mother, I cannot imagine the pain that Kaylee's family has gone through, especially since this was a completely preventable situation. Kaylee Sawyer was manipulated by someone she thought she could trust to protect her safety. This misplaced trust resulted in her tragic death. This could have been prevented if the college handled campus security in an appropriate way. Since Kaylee Sawyer's death, I have not seen the college administration take responsibility, nor has campus security taken any action to rectify the situation to make campus more safe for students. Since this is the case, it is time for the state to step in and help students feel safe all across Oregon.

Passing Kaylee's Law is not just about making COCC students feel safe and protected by CPS, it is about making students feel safe on campuses all across the state. This issue affects all students, especially students holding marginalized identities such as students of color and students within the LGBTQ+ community. It is time for the Oregon State Legislature to mandate better systems to protect these students on campus. Students must be assured that they are being protected by campus security officers who are qualified to protect them, so campuses must be required to run background checks on all campus security officers they hire. It is time for the Oregon State Legislature to take action to ensure that all Oregon students know they can feel safe on campus,

## **OREGON STUDENT ASSOCIATION**

The Oregon Student Association (OSA) is a statewide, student-led advocacy and organizing non-profit established in 1975 to represent, serve, and protect the collective interests of students in postsecondary education in Oregon



regardless of the identities they hold. Please show your support for the safety of Oregon students by passing SB 576. Thank you for your time.

### **OREGON STUDENT ASSOCIATION**

The Oregon Student Association (OSA) is a statewide, student-led advocacy and organizing non-profit established in 1975 to represent, serve, and protect the collective interests of students in postsecondary education in Oregon

635 NE Dekum St, Portland, OR, 97211 | (503) 286-0477 | [www.orstudents.org](http://www.orstudents.org) | @OregonStudents