



Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women

**Support HB4132
Oregon Student Health Survey
February 3, 2020
House Committee on Education**

Founded in 1999, the Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women (the Alliance) is a grassroots organization of survivors, advocates, multi-disciplinary community and system-based responders, and allies. The Alliance is dedicated to promoting legislation in Oregon that will protect and empower survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

HB4132 would provide dedicated funding and staff support to fully implement *The Oregon Student Health Survey*. The Oregon Student Health Survey provides critical data on school climate and student health and well-being, helps state agencies, districts, schools, and community partners make data-driven decisions when planning and assessing programs to address student needs and provides data to evaluate the impact of the significant investments made through the Student Success Act and other policies impacting youth in schools.

Dating violence and sexual assault are pervasive and systemic problems for Oregon's youth. More than half of Oregon's survivors of sexual assault are under 17 years old. There is a strong correlation between teen dating violence and future health and social problems. Youth who experience teen dating violence and sexual assault are more likely than their non-abused peers to smoke, use drugs, engage in risky sexual behaviors, and attempt or consider suicide. Teens who are victims of physical dating violence are more likely to do poorly in school, or to skip school entirely because they feel unsafe. The severity of adult intimate partner violence is often greater in cases where the pattern of abuse was established in adolescence.

HB4132 is a legislative priority for the Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women. The academic success of students is deeply impacted by a nexus of factors. Hunger, mental health challenges, bullying, experiences of trauma, and lack of access to health care and sexual health education create additional barriers that can make it difficult for Oregon youth to reach their full potential. The Alliance respectfully requests the committee's support of House Bill 4132, the Oregon Student Health Survey Bill, to give educators and health partners the necessary information to support the health, well-being, and academic achievement of Oregon youth.

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