

TIX Education Specialists

"Bridging compliance and best practice."

HB 4133

House Committee on Human Services and Housing

February 3, 2020

Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice-Chairs Noble and Williams, and Members of the Committee,

TIX Education Specialists provides training, consultation, and investigation services to K-12 schools and institutions of higher education. Our focus is on Title IX as well as federal and state sexual harassment and assault laws. Our goal is to bridge compliance with evidence-based, trauma-informed best practices to help educators and school administrators serve their students best.

We are writing you today in support of HB 4133, the co-located advocacy bill. This bill will appropriate additional funds to the Department of Human Services for the funding of domestic violence specialist positions in child welfare offices. The passage of this bill will provide safety planning, education, advocacy, and on-going support for survivors of sexual violence and their children. This model is designed to encourage self-sufficiency and family stability for survivors and their children.

As a part of the response effort to instances of domestic and inter-personal violence in Oregon, we can tell you that access to a support system that empowers survivors to make educated decisions on how to move forward with their lives is a crucial step in preventing further trauma and violence for them. HB 4133 will provide more opportunities for children to safely stay with a non-offending parent, effectively reducing instances of further traumatization of survivors and their children. DHS Child Welfare [reported](#) an increased likelihood of survivors to use DHS services when working with a co-located advocate.

For the furtherance of the health and safety of all Oregonians, particularly some of our most vulnerable populations, we encourage your support of HB 4133.

Respectfully,

Sammy Brace
Policy & Communications Manager