

Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Lily Bohan James, I am a 2021 college graduate and serve as co-Executive Director of The Every Voice Coalition— Every Voice is a student, young alum and survivor-led nonprofit that has passed five student-written laws aimed at addressing campus sexual violence and we are now advocating for the passage of SB1572.

As current students and young alums, we at Every Voice know first hand the devastating and lifelong impacts sexual violence has, not only on individuals, but on an entire campus culture and community. And, we also know that, while the experience of sexual violence is traumatic and horrific itself, many student survivors report that navigating the aftermath of an assault is sometime as— if not more—traumatic than the incident itself.

With estimated rates of campus sexual violence around 1 in 10 students— with rates actually *increasing*— roughly 23,000 students across Oregon campuses will likely experience sexual violence in 2022. However, some 90 to 95% of those student survivors do not come forward to report their incidents, therefore usually not receiving any post-incident support — such as medical and counseling services or someone to help them manage their student loans if they decide to take time to recover. This means the vast majority of student survivors are navigating through the aftermath of a traumatic incident alone and suffering alone. We must do everything we can to break down the barriers for students to receive post-incident support. The good news? There are steps we can take— and must take— right now to address this epidemic and SB1572 is key to addressing several critical gaps currently existing on campuses.

The provisions in Section 2 make it clear that student survivors not only have the *right* to supportive measures to ensure their equal access to education, but have control over their healing regardless of a decision to report and/or initiate a grievance process. This is critical to meet the vast majority— 90-95% — of student survivors who do not report and ensures all student survivors have access to supportive measures. Furthermore, by shifting to a consistent affirmative consent standard on campuses we are ensuring that no student is unable to receive supportive measures because what happened to them did not fall into a narrow definition of consent that can bar survivors from receiving support post-incident.

However, while supportive measure are crucial to ensuring resources and support following an incident, we must also take steps to actively *prevent* sexual violence from occurring in the first place. The provisions in Section 3 create a deeply meaningful education standard across a whole student body. The prevention and awareness programs and processes for creating the programming are creatively and deliberately designed to ensure prevention and awareness programming for all those in a campus community have diverse stakeholder input and are consistently grounded in best-practices. With this model, campus sexual violence prevention practices will take a huge leap forward.

Lastly, Section 4 is a critical piece to the puzzle. One of the immense challenges of campus sexual violence prevention is the lack of meaningful and actionable data collected on the issue. For example, in 2019, 57 schools in Oregon officially reported zero incidences of rape on campus. That statistic is deeply

freighting because it does not mean that zero students were raped on campus that year – it means that zero students felt safe, supported or comfortable enough to come forward and report their rape. We clearly need a better mechanism to collect data on this issue so that we can better prevent the violence and support student survivors. Campus climate surveys are universally considered best practice instruments, and thus far, Every Voice laws have required state-wide, biennial climate surveys in five states (NH, MA, IL, CT and NV). Oregon must take the step other states have already taken and commit to meaningfully collecting data on this issue to set OR schools up for continual success in violence prevention into the future.

And, while administering a campus climate survey is not free for a school, the CDC has reported that the estimated lifetime cost of rape is \$122,461 per survivor. Some simple math tells us that the estimated lifetime cost per survivor multiplied by an estimated 23,000 Oregon student survivors leaves us with \$2,816,603,000 (two billion, eight hundred nine million, three hundred fifty-eight thousand) across Oregon student survivors in 2023 alone...

I urge the committee to vote SB1572 favorably out of committee and help to end the epidemic of campus sexual violence one step at a time. Thank you!