

To: Senate Committee on Education

From: Maggie Gates, Legislative Director, Oregon Student Association

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 1572

Hello Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Thomsen, and members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Maggie Gates and I am the Legislative Director with the Oregon Student Association (OSA). OSA is a statewide, student-led advocacy and organizing nonprofit established in 1975 to represent, serve, and protect the collective interests of students in post-secondary education in Oregon. We represent over 80,000 students and work to make a quality education more affordable and accessible for *all* Oregonians.

I am writing on behalf of OSA to urge your support of SB 1572, the Campus Sexual Assault Prevention & Support Bill because every student deserves to feel safe on campus.

SB 1572 expands prevention efforts that will improve student safety by stopping violence before it happens. Regardless of Federal Title IX requirements, all students who come forward with a report of sexual assualt, dating violence, harassment, or stalking should have access to services, such as mental health counseling and safety support. Current and future students deserve to know the prevalence of sexual violence on campus. SB 1572 requires schools to conduct campus climate surveys that will provide necessary data to inform prevention and intervention strategies, adjust services, and examine effectiveness of current initiatives.

Please join the Oregon Student Association in supporting SB 1572. Thank you for your commitment to improve services for students and survivors of violence across Oregon.

Sincerely,

Maggie Gates Legislative Director, OSA