

**OREGON ATTORNEY GENERAL'S
SEXUAL ASSAULT TASK FORCE
CAMPUS PROGRAM**



**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
SUPPORT SB1572**

FEBRUARY 7, 2022

SUBMITTED BY: DR. AISLINN ADDINGTON, CAMPUS ADVOCATE COORDINATOR

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

Thank you for your time and attention. My name is Dr. Aislinn Addington, Campus Advocate Coordinator with Oregon SATF, and I urge your support of SB1572, the Campus Sexual Assault Prevention & Support bill.

At the Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force (Oregon SATF), our mission is to facilitate and support a collaborative, survivor-centered approach to the prevention of and response to sexual violence. We accomplish our mission by advancing primary prevention and providing multi-disciplinary training and technical assistance to responders in Oregon and nationally.

SB1572 ensures that all students who experience violence have access to supportive measures aimed to restore meaningful access to the educational environment. Providing supportive measures is not only the right thing to do, it also bridges the connection between the student and their campus, making it more likely that the school may retain that student.

We know that nationally 1 in 3 women will experience violence at some point in her life and in Oregon that number is a staggering 1 in 2.¹ Without the supportive measures SB1572 offers, Oregon college students who experience violence will have a more difficult time staying in school. The resources and accommodations offered as supportive measures assist the student in feeling safe and confident in their educational environment. The "cost" of offering these resources is significantly minimal, especially when compared with the potential loss in student retention when Oregon students impacted by violence are not able to continue their education.

In my role as Campus Advocate Coordinator I have the privilege of working with campus-based advocates at colleges and universities throughout our state. I have spoken with advocates at Oregon's public universities, private institutions, community colleges, and technical programs.

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Ensuring that the current federal Title IX requirement to offer supportive measures is extended to all students who report experiencing violence in Oregon will allow these campus-based advocates to expand the work they are currently doing and move forward with the support of their institutions.

Each school is unique in regards to what resources are available and how their processes function, but common supportive measures include things like changing a student's on-campus residence, moving a student in or out of a particular class section, safety rides and public safety campus escort service, as well as connections to additional resources like mental health counseling, basic needs assistance, emergency financial assistance. Large or small, one-time or ongoing, these supportive measures **are** the reasons students are able to move through their experiences while maintaining successful participation in college life. The supportive measures component of SB1572 merely codifies the great work that is already happening on most of our campuses.

Support for SB1572 means ALL students in Oregon higher education will have the support they need and deserve.

Thank you for your continued efforts to serve students and student survivors of violence throughout Oregon.

Sincerely,

Aislinn Addington, PhD

Campus Advocate Coordinator

Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force

¹ Women's Foundation of Oregon. (2016). "Count Her In: A report about women and girls in Oregon."
<https://womensfoundationoforegon.org/research-resources/count-her-in>