



**Oregon Commission For Women**

Advocating for Equity and Diversity throughout Oregon

Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Wright and Hudson, and members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Angela Rico and I serve as a Commissioner for the Oregon Commission For Women (OCFW). I support the passage of HB 2280, which would create more clarity for school districts and align standards regarding consent as defined in the sexual harassment policies in Oregon's school districts.

Ambiguity of a law is incredibly harmful to those who are seeking redress for harm caused. As a former Violence Against Women Act Deputy District Attorney, I have seen how the lack of clarity in terms, such as "consent" can have on victims and survivors.

This bill helps to create more clarity related to the term "without consent." Clarity and alignment also helps our educators, school district staff, parents, caregivers, and the general public have a better understanding of the term "without consent," which in turn allows these interested parties to know their rights, duties, and protections.

As a Commissioner of OCFW, and as an attorney who has worked with survivors from the most underrepresented backgrounds to navigate the criminal justice system, and who have had to suffer through lack of clarity on such terms, I urge the Committee to support the passage of HB 2280 and bring about that kind of clarity and alignment that is much needed.

Thank you for your time.

Angela Rico, JD

**Oregon Commission for Women**

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