



Oregon Voices
PO Box 13175
Salem, OR 97302

January 30, 2023

TO: Senate Judiciary Committee

RE: SB 566 and SB 567

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher and members of the committee:

In the work that I have done with Oregon Voices and in interacting with legislators and legislation over the last decade, I have come to realize with greater clarity how varied and complex sexual encounters can be and sometimes are. Both SB 566, and SB 567, through the small emendations they make to current law, seem to move Oregon toward a laudably broadened recognition of that complexity.

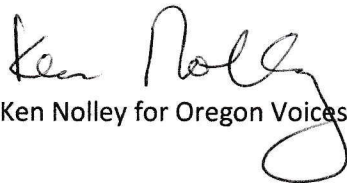
Based on what we have seen, the phrase "with the intent to abuse, humiliate, harass, annoy or degrade the person" suggests a kind of behavior, as inexcusable and indefensible as it may be, that is prevalent among adolescents harassing other adolescents in moments when adult supervision is regrettably not present.

Unfortunately, most adolescents have never had any sex education that mentioned Oregon law and that stated clearly how strongly our society rejects this kind of behavior. This behavior is always transgressive, even for the perpetrators. But youthful perpetrators often have little understanding of how destructively transgressive it is and usually no understanding of what the legal consequences of such behavior can be.

We believe that education that addressed those issues directly could help to reduce the incidence of such misguidedly destructive behavior. Not only would it reduce the number of victims, but it would also reduce the number of victimizers along with the prosecutions and life-changing consequences of a criminal record .

We support both bills. But we would like to see more educational programs for young people that include discussions of Oregon law, why our society takes sexual victimization seriously, and what the consequences can be both for victim and perpetrator.

Sincerely,


Ken Nolley for Oregon Voices