

Submitter: Poppy Miller

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Higher Education

Measure: HB3456

Chair Lively, Vice Chair Ruiz, Vice Chair McIntire, and members of the House Committee On Higher Education,

My name is Poppy and I am testifying in support of HB3456. I am a current college sophomore and I have lived in Oregon for fifteen years, and am sure that HB 3456 would make a huge difference in Oregon schools across the state.

Nationally, it is estimated that 1 in 10 students experience sexual violence during their time in college. This adds up to 20,000 current students across Oregon campuses will or have experienced sexual violence in 2023. These numbers could include my classmates, family, and friends– but they don't have to.

Additionally, students who experience sexual violence are rarely receiving the support they need to help them heal and stay in school. 95% of student survivors do not report the incident and 85% of student survivors do not access support resources following an incident. This can lead to grades dropping, students potentially at risk of losing scholarships they worked so hard to earn, mental health diminishing, social lives falling apart, and many other consequences ranging from innocuous to extreme.

I hope you all can see exactly how sexual violence is a lurking threat to all students across all college campuses. I pray that I can one day see a world in which sexual violence is no longer a worry in the minds of college students, and HB 3456 has multiple components specifically related to ending sexual violence on college campuses. These include an anonymous state-wide survey allowing colleges to collect campus-specific information on what is working and not working, and campus-specific training for staff and students informed by those surveys.

Additionally, HB 3456 supports survivors of sexual violence and ensures that one tragic incident doesn't derail people's college careers; HB 3456 ensures that survivors are supported and can get the help they need to survive and process safely and with the help of professionals. Access to free legal, medical, and counseling services is key to ensuring survivors have the resources they need to recover. Confidential advising services can point students in the direction of those services while providing more unique, campus specific services such as academic and housing accommodation requests, and an amnesty policy will encourage more students to report their incidents and seek the help they need.

I urge the committee to vote HB3456 favorably out of committee and help end the

epidemic of campus sexual violence. Thank you for your time!