

Submitter: Beier Li
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 Beier Li, and I am a college student in Oregon. I am here to testify in support of HB3456.

As a survivor of sexual assault, I deeply understand the importance of having a range of supportive measures and prevention programs in place to address sexual violence in educational institutions. While judicial procedures are a necessary aspect of this issue, I believe that the existing Title IX and Discriminatory Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Policy(DHSM) policies are inadequate in providing survivors like me with the necessary support to fully recover from our traumatic experiences. The legal process can be incredibly traumatizing and emotionally draining, and it often fails to hold perpetrators accountable. Therefore, it is critical that student survivors have access to additional resources and support beyond the judicial system.

When I was sexually assaulted, I felt helpless because there was no confidential advisory resource available to me, and I could not afford to pay for a therapist or lawyer. I was afraid to seek help from my conservative family, who I feared would shame me for losing my virginity. It was already a significant burden to take care of my own mental health at that time, thus I did not have the energy to hold my assaulter accountable. If my educational institution had provided me with accessible medical, legal, and advisory resources, my story would have been different. It would have been more hopeful and less helpless.

Moreover, we need more transparency and awareness of sexual violence in universities. Before I became a survivor, I believed that sexual violence was far removed from my life because I had never heard of anyone experiencing it in school. However, after I became a survivor and started to share my experience, I was shocked to learn about the prevalence of sexual violence in educational institutions. Due to the stigma, shame, and victim-blaming associated with sexual violence, many survivors choose to remain silent and endure the violence alone. Raising awareness of the urgency of this issue is the first step in preventing such tragedies from recurring.

HB3456, which was written by college students and survivors, addresses the urgent needs of student survivors. As a survivor who once struggled to find support and help, I know this bill will significantly increase the possibility for survivors to access

necessary resources while decreasing the trauma and negative impact of sexual violence in universities.

I am thrilled to testify in support of HB3456, which will ensure that campuses are safe environments for students to learn and thrive. I urge the committee to vote in favor of HB3456 and help put an end to sexual violence on campus. Thank you for your time.