

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

My name is Leo James. I am currently in my second year of attending college in Oregon and I am testifying in support of HB3456.

Sexual violence has become an epidemic for college campuses. It is estimated that – while in college – 1 in 10 students will experience sexual violence. This is an unacceptable statistic, especially when coupled with the fact that student survivors are not receiving the support that they need. According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, over [90%](#) of student survivors will not report the incident.

This lack of support in our current system is placing the weight of supporting survivors on their peers, many of whom are untrained on how to handle these issues and are ultimately ill-equipped to handle such issues. It is outrageous that survivors on our college campuses are not receiving comprehensive support.

HB3456 was written by current college students and student survivors. Its five main components address issues that students are experiencing across the state of Oregon right now. It will provide the support for survivors that is currently lacking, and demand transparency in a capacity that will allow for intentional, informed institutional changes on our college campuses.

Over the course of the past two years, I have seen first hand that survivors on our college campuses are not receiving the support they need. The current impact of sexual violence on college students is devastating; this bill will lessen that impact by helping individual survivors to know their rights and options, and enabling schools to tailor responses to their communities through access to transparent public data.

Without legislative action, students will continue to feel unsupported as we bear the undue burden of sexual violence on our campuses. This bill will help to foster safety on campuses in Oregon so that college can be first and foremost a place where students learn and build community. That is why I am testifying in support of HB3456; it will help to end the scourge of sexual violence on college campuses.

I urge the committee to vote HB3456 favorably out of committee. Thank you for your time!