

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

My name is Ashley Schlipp, I am a student at Reed College, and I am testifying in support of HB3456.

The cost incurred by the victim of sexual violence is estimated to be over 120,000\$. This is a huge cost to place upon any survivor. For college students, who are often managing several jobs, debt, and schoolwork, the emotional and physical damages done by sexual violence are particularly devastating.

As a survivor, I can speak personally to the effect my experience has had on me in school. When it happened, I didn't know who I could talk to. I knew therapists were confidential, but I couldn't afford to start seeing one when I should have. I struggled to keep up with school as my mental and physical health suffered.

If I had known that there were free, guaranteed confidential advocates available that I could've talked to, it would've changed my life in a really positive way. I would've been able to explore my options and talk about what I experienced with someone who I knew was safe.

As an advocate now myself, I can also speak to the positive impact I've seen my program have on the student body as a whole. We've been able to increase awareness about the prevalence of sexual violence on campus, provide confidential resources and support to survivors, and supplement with many prevention education opportunities to students. Many students recognize me on campus and I regularly get asked about available resources. Many of them also express how difficult it is to navigate these processes and obtain the relevant and necessary support that they are trying to get.

This bill will take a lot of the financial burden off students while offering them invaluable informational, emotional and physical support through their own healing and legal processes. I strongly urge the committee to vote HB3456 favorably out of committee and show their support to survivors of sexual violence on college campuses across Oregon. Thank you so much for your time and consideration!