

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

My name is Peri Joy Long. I am a Reed College senior, and I am testifying in support of HB3456. As a confidential advocate for survivors of sexual violence at my school, I have seen firsthand the detrimental impact sexual violence has on a student's life.

With estimated rates of campus sexual violence around 1 in 10 students, roughly 20,000 students across Oregon campuses have or will experience sexual violence in 2023. However, 95% of student-survivors do not come forward to report their incidents and 85% do not access post-incident supportive resources, meaning that this year an estimated 17,000 *current* Oregon students will be navigating the aftermath of a traumatic incident alone. This is particularly alarming considering the severe mental, social, educational, and economic impacts sexual violence has been demonstrated to have on students.

The estimated lifetime cost of rape is \$122,461 per survivor. Some simple math tells us that the estimated lifetime cost per survivor multiplied by an estimated 20,000 Oregon student-survivors leaves us with as much as \$2,449,220,000 across Oregon student-survivors who experienced sexual violence in 2023 alone. If schools can allocate \$29.1 million to a football coach, then the least they can do is provide student-survivors with the basic supportive resources provided by HB3456.

Through my work with survivors, I have witnessed just how difficult it can be to access and navigate institutional supportive resources, if these are available at all. Many Oregon institutions of higher education still do not have necessary resources like confidential advocates or amnesty protections. If the components of this bill were in place throughout colleges and universities in the state, so many students would be better able to access supportive resources and services, understand their rights and options, and feel more supported as they continued to pursue their degrees.

There is an alarming upward trend in campus sexual violence. A 2019 national campus climate survey found that rates of campus sexual violence have increased substantially since 2015. The most recent college climate survey I could find published publicly on Reed's website was from 2012. This is data from when I was in 5th/6th grade. We deserve to have accurate, up-to-date data on sexual violence on our campuses. We deserve to have supportive measures that accurately address the impact sexual violence has on students *today*...not students ten years ago. It is distressing how little transparency there is from Oregon institutions. We deserve to have this issue addressed, and it has become increasingly clear that this can only be done through legislative action.

I am beyond thrilled to support HB3456. This bill will have life-changing impacts on student-survivors of sexual violence. I strongly urge the committee to vote HB3456 favorably out of committee. Thank you for your time and continued work to improve services for students across Oregon.

Sincerely,
Peri Joy Long