



Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women

Support HB 3456 Support Oregon's College + University Students

Ensure support for survivors of sexual and domestic violence on campus.

Chair Lively, Vice Chairs McIntire and Ruiz, and members of the committee:

Founded in 1999, the Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women (the Alliance) is a grassroots organization of survivors, advocates, non-profit and community-based victim services organizations, and multi-disciplinary community and system-based responders. The Alliance is dedicated to promoting legislation in Oregon that will protect and empower survivors of domestic and sexual violence. The Alliance is appreciative of the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 3456, regarding comprehensive, trauma informed support for college college and university students in Oregon.

This legislature has made incredible strides to ensure that students who pursue higher education are able to do so successfully. No student deserves to have these pursuits ended because of an experience with sexual or domestic violence. Research shows that experiencing dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, sexual harassment, and/or sexual assault has a profoundly negative impact on a survivor's financial, emotional, physical, and social wellbeing¹. The same research also demonstrates that students enrolled in schools where safety and supports for survivors are prioritized are less likely to experience these negative outcomes.

Oregon must implement a multi-factor approach to preventing violence in college communities, and providing comprehensive, trauma-informed support for students to heal and maintain access to their education after experiencing violence.

HB 3456 helps Oregon to further be a leader in preventing and responding to violence in campus communities, by:

- Ensuring that Oregon has comprehensive, current data to fully understand the scope of violence happening in campus communities, including data that would inform prevention strategies and response systems;
- Requiring that schools take a balanced approach to issues of sexual and domestic violence by ensuring a focus on prevention strategies and programs;
- Codifying Memorandums of Understanding between local experts in supporting survivors (community-based domestic and sexual violence advocacy agencies) and schools;
- Providing confidential services tailored to the needs of survivors on every campus, via direct hiring of a confidential advocate or partnership with a community program; and
- Removing barriers to staying in school via temporary waivers for school-based programs.

Please support Oregon students, please support HB 3456.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022). (rep.). *Preventing Intimate Partner Violence 2022*. Retrieved March 15, 2023, from https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/ipv/IPV-factsheet_2022.pdf.