



March 16, 2023

Chair Lively, Vice Chair McIntire, Vice Chair Ruiz, and Members of the House Committee on Higher Education

Re: House Bill 3456 – Support

Chair Lively, Vice Chair McIntire, Vice Chair Ruiz, and Members of the Committee. For the record, my name is William Miller and I have the honor of serving as the Board President for Oregon Voice for Survivors. Oregon Voice for Survivors is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization with a mission that centers healing beyond western norms through elevating education, offender accountability, and electoral power building. I write in support of House Bill 3456.

Sexual violence on college campuses is unfortunately part of many student stories. On the evening of March 16, 2017, I experienced sexual violence as a student attending Oregon State University (OSU). Fortunately, OSU had resources and infrastructure available to support me during this time. However, that is not the case for many other college students. HB 3456 provides additional support services to survivors while creating standardized reporting requirements across Oregon campuses.

HB 3456 requires on-campus student advocates who provide confidential support services and connect survivors with resources, creating opportunities for healing. The bill institutes anti-retaliation measures, which will create opportunities where students feel safer to come forward with their cases or witness testimony. In addition to these vital services, the bill specifically calls for the following to support survivors:

- Free legal, medical, and counseling services
- Confidential advising services
- Amnesty protections for reporting parties
- Transparent and public data through anonymous campus climate surveys
- Annual prevention and awareness programming

With the passage of this bill, our hope is that college campuses in Oregon will take one step forward by provide support, protections, guidance to survivors while requiring accountability among college campuses. On behalf of Oregon Voice for Survivors, we urge the passage of HB 3456, for the access, healing, and opportunity of survivors all throughout Oregon.

Thank you,

William Miller
Board President
Oregon Voice for Survivors