

REPRESENTATIVE ANNESSA HARTMAN (SHE/HER)
HOUSE DISTRICT 40



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

We need to believe, and listen to, student survivors of sexual assault. That's why I listened when Oregonian students came to my office with the ideas behind HB 3456, and it's why I'm asking you to join me in supporting it.

The percentages of women who have experienced stalking, sexual assault, and rape in our state are all higher than the national average. Women of color, especially Native American women, LGBTQ+ women, and women with disabilities experience sexual violence at even higher rates. This issue is prevalent in colleges and universities, where an estimated one in ten college students will experience sexual violence, with similarly higher rates and disparities among marginalized identities.

This bill's opponents say they support its objectives but not all of its methods, and that it will be too costly for them to enact. It's interesting to hear this from large schools with ample resources, while smaller schools like Clackamas Community College don't have these concerns and fully support the bill. It should not be controversial to say that as homes and communities for thousands of young people, all institutions can and should be investing in and prioritizing resources to address campus sexual violence. And Oregon will be following in the footsteps of 6 other states that have already successfully enacted and implemented the components of this bill, which are specifically designed to be the most cost-effective, implementable, and best-practice ways to ensure all students receive the support they need.

Through this bill, we're responding to our students' calls for more access to resources for survivors on campus, including legal, medical, and community-based support. We're also responding to the dire need for systematic preventative efforts, targeted at preventing both sexual violence and the trauma that too often accompanies it when survivors interact with convoluted and insensitive institutions.

Making sure we all feel safe in our community and uplifting the voices of the vulnerable are the reasons I ran for office and why I am proudly sponsoring House Bill 3456 this session. Please join me in sending the message that sexual violence has no place in Oregon and her schools.

Thank you for your time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annessa Hartman".

Representative Annessa Hartman