

HOUSE BILL 4160

Kevin L. Mannix

OREGON'S STUDENT PROTECTION LAW

Co-Chief Sponsors: Representative Mannix,
Senator Gelser-Blouin, Representative Neron, & Senator Dembrow

BACKGROUND

This legislation is designed to reduce the opportunity for predatory sexual behavior by educators who work with children. We have seen dangerous grooming behaviors by staff with students who are near high school graduation. Representative Mannix is working with the Salem-Keizer School District and other school authorities to strengthen protections against such behaviors by prohibiting educators from engaging in sexual misconduct with students for a full year after graduation instead of the current 90 day prohibition. The National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education (NASDTEC) recently recognized the need to protect vulnerable students in this category, passing model legislation called the Protection of Professional Educator Boundaries Act.

WHAT THIS LEGISLATION DOES

#1

This legislation changes the definition of "student" in cases of sexual misconduct between a student and a teacher, coach, or other school employee, under ORS 339.370(13)(b).

#2

Under current law, a "student" remains a student only 90 days after graduation or leaving the school. This legislation would change the definition of "student" so that the individual is considered a student for a full calendar year after graduation/leaving the school.

#3

This change is supported by other Oregon statutes governing similar influential relationships.

In Oregon, licensed professional counselors must wait 5 years before engaging in a sexual or romantic relationship with former clients.

Teachers and other educators often serve in the role of mentor, counselor, and occasionally, a parental figure. These relationships are extremely influential.

LET'S PROTECT OUR KIDS TOGETHER.