From the Office of Representatives Hartman, Fragala, Levy and Nathanson

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Oregon Lawmakers Stand With Student Survivors as Campus Sexual Assault Reports Highlight Need for Continued Action

SALEM, Ore.— The University of Oregon announced five cases of sexual assault reported within the first week of classes, compared to seven on-campus rape reports and 20 incidents of fondling in 2024. According to RAINN's statistics, 1 in 4 undergraduate women and 1 in 14 undergraduate men experience sexual violence during college.

The crisis is also being discussed on a national level after a 20-year-old student, identified anonymously as Jane Doe, filed a civil lawsuit against Cornell University alleging she was drugged and raped by seven members of the Chi Phi fraternity in 2024.

"Jane Doe's story is as harrowing and heartbreaking as the fact that it is not unusual," said **Rep. Lisa Fragala (D-Eugene)**, Chair of the Committee on Higher Education. "I see these five cases in the first week of classes not as an increase in violence but an increase in students finding their voice to speak on it. I hope Jane Doe's bravery inspires more student survivors to stand up and report the harm done to them, and we need to be here to ensure justice for them when they do."

In 2023, the Oregon legislature passed Campus Survivors Act (HB 3456), which protects students on college campuses who survive sexual assault by ensuring they can access free advocacy, medical, and counseling services without fear of retaliation.

"As the chief sponsor of the Campus Survivors Act, and as a survivor myself, I did not come to this work from a distance. I know what it means when the systems that are supposed to protect people fail them," said **Rep. Annessa Hartman (D-Gladstone and Oregon City). "**Survivors and students told me what they needed, and we turned their voices into law. My time in the

legislature is ending, but my expectation of these institutions is not: believe survivors enough to listen, respect them enough to act, and build systems worthy of the trust we ask them to place in us."

Sexual assault and harassment has lasting effects on student survivors. RAINN's report highlights studies finding sexual violence's link to lower grades and higher stress. One study found that college students surviving sexual assault experienced 200% more negative academic outcomes than other students.

"College campuses are meant to be a place where young adults learn, grow, and become themselves, and we cannot allow for this disgusting behavior that causes lasting damage to the lives and futures of these young women enduring this harm," said **Rep. Nancy Nathanson (D-North Eugene)**.

The same RAINN study shows that only around 1 in 3 students feel confident in their knowledge on how to get help, and less than 1 in 3 students receive help when they've experienced assault.

"This is an abysmal failure to protect young women," said **Rep. Emerson Levy** (D - Bend, South Redmond, Tumalo & Sisters). "We can't let this story become just another moment in our news cycle. We owe it to our Oregon students, to Jane Doe, to the women reporting tomorrow, and to those who felt they never could. Assaulters deserve consequences, and women deserve a voice and trust in their institutions."

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