



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
May 28, 2015

For More Information, Contact:
Scott Moore (503) 986-1904
scott.moore@state.or.us

Oregon House Votes to Protect Sexual Assault Victims on College Campuses

SB 759 requires written protocols and clear information for victims seeking help

The Oregon House today voted unanimously to pass a bill to assist victims of sexual assault on college campuses. [Senate Bill 759](#) will make sure that any student who reports a sexual assault on campus receives the accurate, plain-language information they need to access critical safety services and make their own informed decisions.

The bill will require Oregon's public and private colleges and universities to adopt written protocols for responding to sexual assault. These protocols must be posted on the school's website, distributed at orientation for new students and given to any person who reports being sexually assaulted by a member of the campus community.

"Nationally, we know as many as one in ten women report having been sexually assaulted since entering college," says Rep. Jennifer Williamson (D-Portland), who carried the bill on the House floor. "Our campuses should be a safe place for students – a place where they can learn and grow without fear. But with statistics like this we know that is not the case for everyone."

"Victims of sexual assault are often unaware of the reporting options and support services available to them," Rep. Williamson added. "And those that do choose to come forward may receive inconsistent and incomplete information. This bill is an important step in making our campuses a safer place for students, faculty, staff and visitors."

While many Oregon institutions are currently evaluating and addressing sexual violence on their campuses, Senate Bill 759 will establish minimum requirements and provide victims with consistent information about their reporting options.

"SB 759 is the needed step to assure that instances of sexual assault are responded to seriously—and properly reported—at universities throughout our state," says Rep. Joe Gallegos (D-Hillsboro), a chief sponsor of the bill. "It is imperative that we take every action possible to support students who have experienced unimaginable trauma so that they may go on to lead healthy, happy, productive lives."

The bill now goes to Governor Kate Brown for her signature.

###