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‘Kaylee’s Law’ will protect students from the unthinkable

SB 576: Requires stricter vetting of campus security guards

SALEM – The Sawyer family lost Kaylee when she was killed by a Central Oregon Community College security guard – a man whose job it was to protect her – in the summer of 2016.

Since that time, the Sawyer family has been on a journey to make sure this doesn’t happen to anyone else’s daughter. That trek took another step forward today, when the Oregon Senate passed [Senate Bill 576](#) – requested by the Sawyer family and known as “Kaylee’s Law” – on a 29-0 vote. The bill was co-carried by Sen. Floyd Prozanski (D-Eugene) and Sen. Tim Knopp (R-Bend).

“The Sawyer family lived through a parent’s worst nightmare when their daughter Kaylee was killed in the summer of 2016,” Knopp said. “If we can do something to make sure that this doesn’t happen again, then we should do it.”

The legislation would clarify the policing limits of college security officers, require uniforms and vehicles look less like those of traditional law enforcement officers and that all campus security vehicles be equipped with GPS and video recording devices. The bill calls for nationwide background checks on all private security or special campus safety officers and removes stop and frisk authority. Cars operating by campus security officers also must not possess ramming bumpers, red and blue light bars, internal cages or other features of standard police vehicles.

“Part of keeping the public safe is that people know when they are dealing with an actual law enforcement officer,” Prozanski said. “If somebody didn’t go through vigorous training and

vetting, they should never be allowed to wear the uniform of a law enforcement officer or operate motor vehicles that closely resemble law enforcement vehicles.”

Multiple groups – including Deschutes County District Attorney John Hummel, the Oregon Department of Justice and the Sawyer family – have worked to draft the bill.

“We entrust our campus security officers with the safety of our precious college-age children,” Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum said. “Their job is crucially important, and requires the highest levels of trust, integrity and skill. Campus security officers are not, however, police officers, and should not wear or use the indicia of that office – uniforms, vehicles or other equipment associated with being a police officer. It is my sincere regret that it took the tragic death of Kaylee Sawyer to compel us to address this issue, and while nothing we do can restore the life of this smart, promising young woman, we can still do right in her name.”

Senate Bill 576 now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration.

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