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Oregon Senate supports survivors of sexual violence

Resolution: Senate pledges to work toward creating a safer state for all survivors

SALEM – The Oregon Senate made a statement that it believes and supports the survivors of sexual violence.

[Senate Concurrent Resolution 25](#) – which passed 30-0 on the Senate floor today – resolves that the Legislative Assembly believes survivors of sexual violence. The resolution goes on to acknowledge the need for greater supports and services for survivors, in addition to pledging to work toward creating an Oregon that is safe for all survivors of sexual violence.

“When someone survives sexual violence, it impacts their life in countless ways,” said Sen. Sara Gelsler (D-Corvallis), who co-carried the resolution on the Senate floor. “This resolution recognizes that respecting and supporting survivors isn’t just about punishing the offender. It’s about supporting and believing survivors, protecting the survivor’s right to determine how to proceed and share their story, and encouraging all survivors that they are valued and have a right to safety and dignity. No one deserves sexual violence, and all survivors deserve every measure of support we can offer towards their healing.”

Sexual assault survivors face a variety of trauma and emotional challenges after disclosing that they have experienced sexual violence. Many survivors are met with disbelief, ridicule or rejection. Senate Concurrent Resolution 25 articulates rights and protections for sexual assault survivors, as well as acknowledging the obstacles faced by survivors. The resolution resolves to work toward providing support and removing those obstacles.

“I’m both proud and humbled to help bring forward this resolution,” said Sen. Michael Dembrow (D-Portland), who co-carried the resolution. “This resolution is calling on us to really recognize the challenges and situations that survivors of sexual violence face. We need to do that in all the work we do here in this chamber. We support and believe survivors of sexual violence and we acknowledge that more needs to be done in response to sexual violence, recognizing that this is a fundamental societal problem.”

Senate Concurrent Resolution 25 now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration.

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