



## SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

Oregon State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Salem, OR

### NEWS RELEASE

April 22, 2015

CONTACT: Molly Woon (503) 986-1074  
[molly.woon@state.or.us](mailto:molly.woon@state.or.us)

#### **Legislation will require colleges and universities to tackle sexual assault**

*SB 759 requires each Oregon college and university to notify victims of their rights*

SALEM – Responding to growing concerns of sexual assault on college campuses, the Senate approved legislation this morning that will help Oregon college students access critical services and assistance if they are sexually assaulted. Senate Bill 759 requires public universities, community colleges, and Oregon-based private universities or colleges to adopt a written protocol for students who are victims of sexual assault on campus or at a college-owned property.

“Sexual assault on campus is at crisis levels, and students aren’t finding the help they need. When students are assaulted, they need good information and access to quality support services,” said Senator Sara Gelser (D-Corvallis/Albany), chief sponsor of the bill, whose district includes Oregon State University. “SB 759 ensures that students get quality information about their legal options and available support services immediately after an assault. This type of information and support will empower these students to make the critical transition from victim to survivor and take control of the path they choose to seek justice.”

SB 759 requires each Oregon college or university to adopt a protocol ensuring that any student reporting sexual assault is provided with written notification setting forth information on student’s rights, legal options, campus-based, state and community-based resources. This notification must specifically include information about the student’s privacy rights, including information about any limitations of privacy that exist if the student visits a campus health or counseling center.

“Creating a safe learning environment for all students is a paramount issue,” said Senator Lee Beyer (D-Springfield), whose district includes the campus of the University of Oregon in Eugene. “Our first priority must continue to be keeping students safe and SB 759 focuses directly on that.”

Rape is the most common form of violent assault on campuses across America. The statistics on campus rapes nationally show that freshman and sophomore female students are the most likely targets of sexual assault and that 18 percent of all college students have personally experienced an attempted or completed sexual assault.

“Many sexual assault victims on campuses never report incidents because they fear reprisal by their attacker, who is often known to them,” said Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson (D-Gresham). “Many more students drop out of college following the attack as they suffer the fear and psychological harm that follow such attacks. This culture must change.”

SB 759 will now go to the House of Representatives for consideration.

###