



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

Oregon State Legislature
State Capitol
Salem, OR

NEWS RELEASE

May 4, 2017

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Senate votes to empower campus sexual assault survivors

HB 2972 prohibits institutional interference in investigations

SALEM – A bill designed to ensure a strong voice for sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking victims on campuses all over the state will go to Gov. Kate Brown for signature.

House Bill 2972 – which passed the Senate on a 27-0 vote today – prohibits universities and colleges from using discipline or sanctions, or even the threat of those two measures, to influence a student-victim’s decision to participation in an investigation or adjudication of sexual assault, domestic violence or stalking.

“We know college students to be especially vulnerable to sexual assault, intimate partner violence and stalking,” said Sen. Kathleen Taylor (D-Portland), who carried the bill. “When a powerful institution, like a college or university, attempts to influence a survivor’s decision through threats, it can be re-traumatizing for the survivor who is working to gain back a sense of control.”

Federal law requires certain institutions to collect and report information about crimes committed on campus. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs to receive federal financial assistance. The United States Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights enforces Title IX and regularly investigates the manner in which colleges and universities handle sexual assault cases.

“This bill will make certain that Oregon statutes protect students from discipline or threat of discipline by their university so that they can make an autonomous decision about reporting,” Taylor said. “It will help to support student survivors of sexual assault, intimate partner violence

and stalking, who are in the aftermath of a traumatic event and are making a difficult decision about if, when and to what entity to report their assault.”

House Bill 2972 now goes to the Governor for signature.

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