



**Testimony of Becky Straus, Legislative Director
In Opposition to HB 3253
House Judiciary Committee
April 1, 2013**

Chair Barker and Members of the Committee:

HB 3253 would require a person who is released into Oregon, who is placed on probation in Oregon or who moves into Oregon, to register as a sex offender in Oregon if that person has been convicted of a registerable sex offense in the originating state, regardless of whether the offense is a registerable offense in Oregon. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in opposition to this proposal.

HB 3253 seems to be inconsistent with the goals of HB 2549, which would move Oregon's system of sex offender notification and registration to a three-tiered classification based on risk. HB 2549 is premised on the assumption that Oregon's sex offender registry has grown so large that it is both increasingly costly to maintain and decreasingly effective as a public safety tool. So it is concerning that HB 3253 might have the effect of counteracting some of this work by adding more people to Oregon's registry that are listed not by risk but according to an offense committed in another state that may require registration here in Oregon.

In North Carolina, HB 34 is pending in the legislature, which would say that bare breasts in public is punishable as a sex crime. Were both HB 34 and HB 3253 to pass, Oregon would require a person who displayed her bare breasts in public to register as a sex offender in Oregon. This result seems out of proportion to the action criminalized in another state and would likely compound the current challenges in Oregon in regard to an overloaded registry.

Rather than move forward with HB 3253, we respectfully urge that you focus instead on the needed changes proposed in HB 2549.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to be in touch at any time with comments or questions.