

## **Statement in Support of HB 3253 Dash 5 and Dash 4 Amendments**

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

It is very difficult to be dispassionate about the issue of the sex offender registry, especially concerning kids. Seven years ago my nephew, when he was 14 years old, was adjudicated for sexually abusing his younger sister. Without a doubt he needed a firm but guiding adult hand to correct errant behavior. When he was reported he was immediately repentant, but the system, moving in standard operating mode, nearly destroyed his future. After years on probation, including successful treatment, he was placed on the sex offender registry in accordance with standard practices. After two years on the registry, and heroic support and expense on the part of the whole family, he applied for and was granted relief from registering as a sex offender. He is fortunate because he is a member of a small minority of juveniles who have gotten off the registry.

In the whole process, secrecy was paramount and since the family was lucky in that regard, he succeeded in high school and is now progressing through a very challenging university program. Given that he is now free of the stigma of the sex offender registry there is little doubt that he will continue with a very productive life, including a PhD.

I like to think that this unfortunate period in my nephew's life and his close call with a life on the sex offender registry will serve as justification for sparing children in the future the same harsh treatment. I heartily encourage you to endorse the Dash 5 and Dash 4 amendments.

And I thank you for your efforts to do the right thing!

Sincerely,

Jan Spitz  
Bend, OR