



Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 5030
For the Human Services Ways and Means Subcommittee
February 21, 2013

Presented by:

Cynthia Stinson
Interim Executive Director
Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force

**This testimony is presented in support of the
Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division Budget**

Important Partnership

The Sexual Assault Task Force (SATF) is pleased to support the work of its valuable partner, the Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division (PHD). The PHD has long been a member of the SATF, active in the Prevention and Education Subcommittee and the Steering Subcommittee. The PHD also serves as an SATF funder, administering Oregon's portion of the federal Rape Prevention Education funding from the Centers for Disease Control. PHD grants the funds to SATF, which in turn subgrants to fund local sexual assault prevention efforts.

Moving Forward

The Public Health Division's recent strategic plan specifically identifying Family Violence, including sexual assault, as a Public Health Priority is of particular interest to the SATF. We were pleased to have the opportunity to give input in the plan during its formation. One in six Oregon women and one in 33 Oregon men will be victims of sexual assault at some point in their lives. The effect on victims' physical, psychological, social and economic well being is profound. The dedication of the Public Health Division to reducing and preventing sexual assault provides a valuable addition to the fight against sexual assault. We look forward to future work with the PHD as they move forward to implement their strategic plan.

We also collaborate with PHD to support and promote the Oregon Youth Sexual Health Plan, which sets goals that youth use accurate information and well-developed skills to make thoughtful choices about relationships and sexual health, to eliminate sexual health inequities, and to reduce the levels of unintended teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted infection and non-consensual sexual behaviors.



Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force

Background

In July 1999, former Attorney General Hardy Myers responded to requests from victim advocates, law enforcement, prosecutors and other allied professionals to organize a statewide effort to address sexual assault in Oregon; the Task Force was subsequently formed. The Task Force is comprised of more than 150 appointed and volunteer members. The Task Force works to develop and support an effective, consistent and collaborative approach to the response to and prevention of adult and adolescent sexual assault in Oregon. This work is accomplished through statewide leadership; the offering of high-quality training for responders and other professionals; information and technical assistance; policy efforts in the interests of sexual assault victims, responders and the community; funding local prevention efforts; providing infrastructure and support for the Oregon SANE Commission; and developing, publishing and disseminating resources and materials for responders, prevention and education workers, and other professionals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the Public Health Division's budget.

SATF Contact

Cynthia Stinson, 503-990-6541 (office), 503-569-3629 (cell), cynthiastinson@oregonsatf.org