

TO: House Judiciary Committee
RE: SB 1550-A
CC: Rep. Lee Beyer

February 24, 2014

Chairman Barker, Members of the Judiciary Committee:

As un-amended, SB 1550-A is a good bill that deserves to be passed this legislative session. It has wide support coming out of the Senate, which recognizes the importance of requiring criminal trials to commence within specified time limits. The A-10 amendment is irrelevant to SB 1550-A's core intent, and appears to function only to stall or kill this otherwise sensible legislation. I strongly urge you to oppose this amendment.

The primary intent of HB 2549 that passed last session is to limit the exponential growth of Oregon's sex offender registry through evidence-based evaluation risk-assessment practices. A-10 is a gross contradiction of this intent. To exclude low-risk, non-dangerous individuals with convictions of attempt from the mere *possibility* of obtaining relief from the state's registration requirement is to keep the registry bloated and ineffectual.

A-10 inappropriately suggests that *attempts* for the major crimes specified are equal to convictions of those crimes. Every case is unique and should be appreciated as such; the nature and severity of attempted actions can vary considerably. It's also important to recognize that some offenders who are innocent of one or more of the charges brought them plead guilty to the lesser charge of attempt to avoid the alternative of lengthy imprisonment. I'm also concerned that A-10 might apply to juveniles or young adults with no prior convictions, as it fails to distinguish a repeat offender with multiple attempts from someone convicted of a single criminal episode.

In the best interest of improved public safety, please drop the distraction that is the A-10 amendment and pass SB 1550-A out of committee.

Thank you for your thoughtful attention regarding this significant matter.

Your concerned citizen,

Errin Creed
Eugene, OR