

From: Kenneth Nolley [<mailto:knolley@willamette.edu>]
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 2:09 PM
To: Reiley Mike
Subject: a letter for the House Judiciary Committee HB 2356

Mike,

Due to illness, I was unable to make the judiciary committee hearing last week on HB 2356 which is now scheduled for a work session this coming Thursday. Can you send this letter to the members of the committee before the work session?

Thank you.

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Oregon Voices
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March 23, 2015

TO: House Judiciary Committee
Representative Jeff Barker, Chair
Representative Andy Olson, Vice-Chair
Representative Jennifer Williamson, Vice-Chair
Representative Brent Barton
Representative Mitch Greenlick
Representative Wayne Krieger
Representative Ann Lininger
Representative Bill Post
Representative Sherrie Sprenger

RE: HB 2356—scheduled for a work session March 26, 2015

Chair Barker, Vice-Chairs Olson and Williamson, members of the committee,

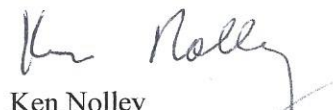
We in Oregon Voices have come before your committee on numerous occasions. Our group supports families of persons on the registry in their efforts to support rehabilitation and a productive, responsible return to society for former offenders. As many of you know, we also do research on the best evidence-based practices for dealing with sex offenses.

We join with Youth, Rights and Justice in the concerns they articulated at the hearing last week about the impact of the bill on youth. Although we believe that as drafted the bill raises appropriate concern over whether the victim is under 18, we think that it should also take the age of the perpetrator into account. We have members who work in the school system, and they tell us that the use of apps like Snapchat are making the sharing of photos a part of daily life in our schools. Unfortunately, these apps are also abused by some young people in ways that can and certainly will be affected by this bill.

No one defends such abuse. But we believe that children often make mistakes because their inexperience makes them unable to imagine fully the power of their hand-held mobile devices. Indeed in a career spent working with students in a college setting, I have seen multiple situations in which even much older students have been unable to imagine fully the damage that a thoughtless couple of keystrokes can inflict.

We believe that in its current form SB 188 leaves room for a young person to learn from a first mistake of this kind by preserving the Class A misdemeanor designation for first-time offenses. We believe that for youthful first offenders, its more graduated approach will provide appropriate sanction for children who are encountering the enormous power of technology for the first time. We hope that the committee will give consideration to the approach taken by the Senate's attempt to grapple with this problem.

Sincerely,


Ken Nolley
President, Oregon Voices