



Oregon Voices
990 Judson SE
Salem, OR 97302

April 2, 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

A letter regarding HB 2557 scheduled for hearing today—April 2, 2015

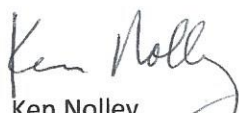
Chair Barker, Vice-Chairs Olson and Williamson, members of the committee,

My name is Ken Nolley. I am a retired Willamette University professor who lives in south Salem. Although I have just become aware that you are hearing this bill today, I still want to write on behalf of Oregon Voices to articulate our support for the changes suggested in HB 2557 to ORS 161.327, 161.336, 161.351, 419C.529 and 419C.532. We thank those who prepared and submitted the bill, and we appreciate the consideration that the committee is giving to it. Although we in Oregon Voices usually approach the committee on issues regarding sex offenses, we are also engaged in supporting families and former offenders seeking to rebuild their lives and to re-enter society as productive and responsible employees, co-workers, neighbors and friends. To that end some of us are active in Marion County's broader re-entry programs, and we believe that the welfare of society and of individuals who have offended are both served by active, supportive and effective re-entry efforts.

Particularly, we believe that the former language being replaced here—"the welfare of the person"—represents a vague, static and potentially limited view of what should be considered in a release decision for persons found guilty of a felony except for insanity. It seems to us much more helpful, both for the individual being considered and for the welfare of society, to consider the more focused and specific issues expressed in the new language. That language brings attention to bear appropriately, we believe, upon dynamic criteria that will serve the individual and the society well.

We hope that the committee will agree and will send this bill on with a pass recommendation.

Sincerely,


Ken Nolley
President, Oregon Voices