



Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force

**TESTIMONY in Support of SB 759 A
Submitted to the House Committee on
Higher Education, Innovation & Workforce Development
May 4, 2015**

Vice-chairs Gallegos and Whisnant, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force, I submit this testimony in support of SB 759 A.

The Sexual Assault Task Force is a private, non-profit, non-governmental statewide agency whose mission is to *facilitate and support a victim-centered approach to the prevention of and response to adolescent and adult sexual violence through multi-disciplinary collaboration*. The Task Force is comprised of over 100 appointed Oregonians representing a wide array of local and statewide community partners, including: victim advocates, violence prevention educators, law enforcement, prosecutors, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners and other medical professionals, campus personnel, policy makers, youth, and survivors of sexual violence.

SATF is committed to working closely with our membership to develop the plain-language protocol and notification to victims, as outlined in SB 759 A. We have a long history of developing survivor-centered, trauma informed best practices, position papers and resources for students. In collaboration with our Campus Subcommittee, with input from our Medical-Forensic, Criminal Justice, and Victim-Response Subcommittees, the SATF recently created a highly visited Campus Reporting Options¹ website, which gives students access to information about their options on and off campus. The website, which was vetted through student focus groups, is a critical resource for students and service providers in Oregon.

We believe the development of a plain-language protocol, made available to students, is the next step in ensuring that survivors of sexual assault have access to information, so that they can make the most informed decisions following a sexual assault. This serves to empower survivors who are more likely to access critical resources to secure their immediate and long-term safety needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this bill, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Respectfully submitted,


Michele Roland-Schwartz
Executive Director

¹ <http://campus.oregonsatf.org/>