



Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force

**Testimony in Support of SB 1553
Submitted to the Senate Judiciary Committee
February 8, 2016**

Chair Prozanski and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Michele Roland-Schwartz, Executive Director of the Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force. The Sexual Assault Task Force is a private, non-profit, non-governmental statewide agency with over 100 multi-disciplinary members who serve as advisors on 1 of 8 subcommittees including: Campus, Criminal Justice, Legislative & Public Policy, Medical-Forensic, Men's Engagement, Offender Management, Prevention Education, and Victim Response.

Our mission is to *facilitate and support a collaborative, survivor-centered approach to the prevention of and response to sexual violence*. We accomplish our mission by providing multi-disciplinary training and technical assistance to sexual assault responders in Oregon and nationally.

I submit this written testimony in support of SB 1553 to extend the statute of limitations in instances when corroborating evidence is obtained. We perceive the bill as an important companion to SB 1571 (Melissa's Law). Together these two bills will strengthen our ability to hold offenders accountable while opening up additional avenues of justice for victims.

As you know, sexual assault is not an isolated event. The ongoing trauma experienced by victims impacts multiple facets of their lives. Passing SB 1553 will send a message to victims that they matter, and bring a necessary change to our criminal justice system.

Thank you for your continued work and forward-thinking momentum to achieve a better response in Oregon for survivors of sexual assault.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MRS", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Michele Roland-Schwartz
Executive Director