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## Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force

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**Testimony in support of SB 1600  
House Committee on Rules  
Submitted by: Michele Roland-Schwartz, Executive Director**

**February 29, 2016**

Chair Williamson and members of the 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 testimony in support of SB 1600** to extend the statute of limited in instances where there is corroborating evidence. This bill is an important companion to SB 1571 (Melissa's Law), and together, 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 1600 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 submitted,



Michele Roland-Schwartz  
Executive Director