



March 21, 2017

Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Oregon Legislative Assembly
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 795 - March 22, 2017 Hearing

Dear Senator Prozanski and Members of the Committee:

We are writing in support of SB 795, with amendments to include compliance with local Multi-Disciplinary Response Team (MDT) protocols under ORS 418 and 419B. SB 795.

We recognize the challenges that victims face when in crisis, and we believe that SB 795 strengthens Oregon's response by giving sexual assault victims the privilege of choosing a personal representative to support them during the medical-forensic exam, while also ensuring that medical professionals or law enforcement notify the victim of this right. The bill provides victims of sexual assault the chance to discuss their option to have advocacy services, in person, so the victim can make an informed decision about their care.

Victim Advocates have an important role in providing crisis intervention as well as advocacy services to the victims and their families, and victims should have an opportunity to discuss their care options, in person, with a victim advocate.

With the addition of language that requires direct responders to comply with local Multi-Disciplinary Response Team (MDT) protocols under ORS 418 and 419B, we believe that SB 795 will not impede child abuse assessment protocols, and urge the committee to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Patty Terzian
Executive Director
Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers