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## Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force

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**Testimony in support of SB 884  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Submitted by: Michele Roland-Schwartz, Executive Director**

**March 21, 2017**

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

On behalf of the Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force<sup>1</sup>, I submit this testimony in support of SB 884, which would require the Oregon Department of Justice to conduct a study on enacting a Sexual Assault Survivor's Bill of Rights.

Oregon is second in the nation (behind Alaska) in rates of sexual violence against women where 1 in 4 women will experience sexual violence in their lifetime, compared to 1 in 5 women nationally,<sup>2</sup> and where more than 1 in 3 Native women will be raped in their lifetime<sup>3</sup>. Ensuring that victims have access to full protection under the law, and unconditional access to justice is paramount in our efforts to remedy and mitigate the trauma experienced following an incident of sexual assault.

SB 884 follows passage of the Survivors Bill of Rights (2016), bipartisan legislation that provides a template for states to adopt similar legislation, and follows efforts, both nationally and locally, to improve the system response to victims of sexual violence. The ultimate goal is to lessen the burden experienced by victims when they make a report and access critical services such as a medical-forensic exam.

The spirit of the bill aligns with the mission of SATF, which is to advance a collaborative, survivor-centered, trauma-informed approach to the prevention of and response to sexual violence in Oregon. For this reason, we encourage your support of SB 884.

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<sup>1</sup> The Sexual Assault Task Force is a private, non-profit, non-governmental statewide agency with over 100 multi-disciplinary members appointed by Attorney General Rosenblum. Members 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.

<sup>2</sup> Prevalence and Characteristics of Sexual Violence, Stalking, and Intimate Partner Violence Victimization – National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2001:

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nisvs/summaryreports.html>

<sup>3</sup> Ending Violence Against Native Women, Indian Law Resource Center:

<http://indianlaw.org/issue/ending-violence-against-native-women>