



Testimony on HB 2633

This testimony is in favor of HB 2633

The [Oregon Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers](#) (OATSA) is the state chapter of the [Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers](#) (ATSA), an international, multi-disciplinary nonprofit membership organization that promotes evidence based practices, public policy, and community strategies that lead to the effective assessment, treatment and management of individuals who have sexually abused or are at risk to abuse. ATSA and OATSA promote the philosophy that empirically based assessment, practice, management, and policy strategies will: enhance community safety, reduce sexual recidivism, protect victims and vulnerable populations, transform the lives of those caught in the web of sexual violence, and illuminate paths to prevent sexual abuse. OATSA focuses on the following goals for our local communities:

- Elimination of sexual victimization;
- The protection of our communities through responsible and ethical treatment of individuals who have sexually abused or are at risk to abuse;
- The prevention of sexual assault through effective management of individuals who have sexually abused or are at risk to abuse;
- The maintenance of high standards of professionalism and integrity within its membership.

OATSA supports HB 2633 as this bill promotes the goals of our organization by providing structure that will help secure public safety by ensuring that sexual offense specific treatment is ethical, evidence based and utilizes up to date standards of practice. It also ensures that treatment is provided by professionals who are appropriately trained and supervised when necessary. It broadens the jurisdiction of the current Sex Offender Treatment Board (SOTB) which addresses previously unintended problems with the narrow definition of “sex offender”. In the original statute, a “sex offender” was defined only as someone who is convicted or adjudicated of a registerable sex crime, overlooking persons who are receiving sexual offense specific treatment but are not involved in the criminal justice system. This created the unforeseen result of multiple legitimate complaints being thrown out due to the client not fitting within the narrow definition in the current statute. In these cases, clients were seeking and receiving sexual offense specific treatment, were treated ineffectively or unethically yet there was no recourse available to address these issues.

HB 2633 additionally supports practitioners by ensuring there is a focus on training and supervision which enhances public safety and competency. HB 2633 moves the profession toward consistent standards of practice by providing therapists with guidelines and ensuring evidence based and therefore, the most current and effective sexual offense specific treatment is used which reduce recidivism and keep communities safer. This legislation will also help ensure competency for professionals who are practicing in good faith and accountability for those who are not.

Submitted on behalf of the OATSA Board by Kelley Chimenti – OATSA President Elect

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