



Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force

Testimony in support of HB 2633
House Committee on Judiciary
April 4, 2017

Chair Barker, Vice Chairs Williamson and Olson, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force (SATF), **I am submitting this letter in support of HB 2633**, which would increase public safety by ensuring that any person who has sexually abused or has been accused of sexual abuse receive high quality, ethical treatment services by a certified treatment provider.

SATF is a private, non-profit, non-governmental statewide agency with over 100 multi-disciplinary members who serve as advisors to the Task Force,¹ advancing our mission to support a multi-disciplinary, survivor-centered approach to the prevention of and response to sexual violence in Oregon.

The Sex Offender Treatment Board (SOTB) was established in 2007 following the passage of HB 3233, and is administered by the Oregon Health Licensing Authority (OHLA). The SOTB was the first step toward recognizing sex offense specific treatment as a specialization and positively impacted sex offense specific treatment by developing professional standards of practice and guidelines. The jurisdiction of the SOTB, however, only extends to providers treating adjudicated sexual abusers, even though it was always the intent for the SOTB to outline standards of practices for therapists treating all individuals receiving sex offense specific treatment.

Passage of HB2633 would modify the SOTB in the following way:

- Expand the jurisdiction of the SOTB to include non-adjudicated sexual abusers or those at risk of abuse
- Safeguard the public by establishing that only those certified under the practice act can practice sex offense specific treatment services
- Change the definition of the Oregon Adolescent Sex Offender Treatment Network to the Oregon Adolescent Sex *Offending* Treatment Network due to organization name change
- Establish a third tier of certification² to address the scarcity of treatment providers in rural and frontier Oregon. Outlined in an amendment to the bill, a *certified secondary associate* sex offender therapist will provide limited services for the treatment and

¹ Members are appointed by Attorney General Rosenblum and 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.

² There are currently two tiers of certification: 1) Certified Clinical Sex Offender Therapist, and 2) Certified Associate Sex Offender Therapist

rehabilitation of sexual abusers under the direct supervision of a certified clinical sex offender therapist.

Treatment providers assume a vital role in protecting the public from sexual abusers who remain in the community. Protection of the community can be undermined by a lack of regulated and approved practices. Moreover, it is critically important that the treatment professionals who have been charged with reducing recidivism and rehabilitating sexual abusers have the specific education, training and skills necessary. For these reasons, we urge your support of HB 2633.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MS', is written over the printed name.

Michele Roland-Schwartz
Executive Director