

Testimony in support of HB 2633
House Committee on Judiciary
Submitted by Randy Ellison, Owner at Don't Tell
April 5, 2017

Chair Barker, Vice-Chairs Olson and Williamson, and members of the Committee:

I am Randy Ellison, a survivor of long-term child sex abuse. I am an author, speaker and advocate for survivors of all sex crimes. I have testified before this committee on bills to extend the criminal and civil statute of limitations on sex abuse and rape as well as the first new bills on human sex trafficking.

I have always worked in support of victims and have been fortunate to be at the Governors signing ceremony, as many of these efforts became law.

Over the last 5 years I have been asked to speak with offenders and have twice presented at the Oregon Adolescent Sex Offender Treatment Network's Annual Conference. When I first had contact with this group I was extremely reticent and leery of working with "the other side." I mean really, what kind of people would work with rapists, right?

Well I got the shock of a lifetime when I discovered a group of professionals that almost unanimously cared deeply about their clients and had a surprising (to me at least) grasp of the issue. They were the consummate professionals! And by working with adolescents, they had a very low rate of recidivism for kids who completed the program.

HB 2633 goes a long way to creating that same standard of professionalism in the wider therapy community and for those working with non-adjudicated offenders or potential offenders.

Due to low reporting rates, and often difficult to prosecute cases, statistics indicate that we are convicting at most three percent of sexual offenders. Holding accountable these, and those who become publically known is critical to increased public safety. Unless we lock these people up for the rest of their lives, we need to do the very best we can to provide effective, evidence based treatment.

HB 2633 will help move us in the right direction. I urge you to support this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Ellison

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