



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Psychiatric Security Review Board

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TO: Representative Mitch Greenlick, Chair  
House Committee on Health Care, State of Oregon

FR: Sid Moore, J.D.  
Deputy Director  
Psychiatric Security Review Board (PSRB)

RE: Written Comment for Hearing on HB 2633

Chair Barker, Vice-Chair Olson, Vice-Chair Williamson, Representatives Gorsek, Greenlick, Lininger, Post, Sanchez, Sprenger, Stark, and Vial. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity for input on this important legislation. My name is Sid Moore; I am the deputy director for the Oregon Psychiatric Security Review Board.

Sound arguments abound in favor of requiring minimum standards for sex offender treatment providers, and treatment experts will outline many of these arguments with greater clinical detail. I would like to take a few moments to give you PSRB's perspective. As you know, PSRB monitors patients who have successfully asserted the guilty except for insanity defense. Sex offenders make up one segment of the GEI population, and their treatment while under PSRB supervision is vital to public safety.

### Licensing and Treatment Standards

Once passed, HB 2633 will continue the Oregon Legislature's history of enhancing public safety. As it did when it added the certified evaluator requirement for court evaluation of GEI cases in 2011, this body, by adding a licensing requirement for sex offender treatment providers, can provide the PSRB with increased confidence that those under Board supervision who have committed sex offenses are evaluated using uniform standards, and are treated using sound tools designed to reduce their risk of re-offense. Better treatment of such patients leads to a safer public as patients gain more insight and learn more tools so that they are less likely to re-offend.

Uniform evaluation standards for treatment providers help ensure that the testimony from one provider on one case is based on the same standards as the statements from other providers in different cases. The Board uses such testimony to decide whether to place patients on conditional release in the community (and if so, where to place them). The availability of more reliable information enhances the Board's public safety function as related to placement decisions.

Consistent treatment standards affect long-term success for the PSRB's patients. Without these standards, providers with little or no specialized training can use treatment methods that are out-of-date or otherwise not accepted within the sex offender treatment community. On occasion, some of these treatment methods are actively harmful to the patient's recovery. Consistent treatment methods, accompanied by requirements for periodic continuing education on providers' parts can help them to assist those who have committed sex offenses in gaining insight into the thought patterns and processes that led to their offense. Increased insight on the part of offenders leads to faster recovery and enhanced public safety, particularly when patients are placed on conditional release.

### Sanctioning Authority

PSRB recognizes that, regardless of the profession, occasionally licensed professionals make mistakes or have not absorbed all the training and knowledge we might otherwise hope they absorbed. In addition, sometimes professionals engage in more volitional (and inappropriate) conduct. The Oregon State Bar's authority to discipline attorneys for careless or reckless conduct and to enforce continuing education standards is analogous. Giving the Health Licensing Office the same level of authority over sex offender treatment providers will protect patients from improper treatment the same way that legal clients are protected from inappropriate attorney behavior.

Continuing education requirements also assure the public that providers keep up with the latest research and standards in sex offender treatment, with the potential that some of these breakthroughs can help make some sex offenders—including PSRB patients—less dangerous earlier.