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## Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force

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**Testimony in support of HB 3464**  
**House Committee on Rules**  
**Submitted by: Michele Roland-Schwartz, Executive Director**  
**June 7, 2017**

Chair Williamson, Vice-Chairs McLane and Rayfield, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force (SATF)<sup>1</sup>, **I am submitting this letter in strong support of HB 3464**, which will strengthen privacy protections and facilitate access to justice for vulnerable populations, including survivors of sexual violence. The bill aligns with our mission to advance a survivor-centered, trauma-informed approach to the prevention of and response to sexual violence in Oregon. We want everyone in our state to live a full, healthy life, without living in fear and isolation.

We are grateful to Governor Brown, Attorney General Rosenblum, and the sponsors of this legislation for coming together on behalf of Oregon's immigrant community, as well as the many community organizations who serve immigrant families.

Perpetrators choose victims based on their vulnerability, their accessibility, and their perceived lack of credibility. These victims are often the same individuals who experience increased barriers to reporting and have limited access to critical safety-net services. When perpetrators prey on immigrants, they threaten to great effect that seeking support or reporting to law enforcement will likely cause their deportation. As a result, survivors of sexual violence live in silence, isolation and continued fear, unwilling to seek legal remedies that may hold offenders in our community accountable for their violence actions<sup>2</sup>. This is particularly troubling in Oregon, where sexual violence against women is the second highest in the country.

Passage of HB3464 strengthens our public safety and human service systems by reassuring survivors and their families that they can access critical services to increase their safety, without fear that their private information could be used against them. By increasing confidentiality, HB3464 creates a safer community, and offers a humane response to immigrant survivors of sexual assault. For this reason, we urge your support.

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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 who 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. Our mission is to facilitate and support a collaborative, survivor-centered approach to the prevention of, and response to sexual violence. We accomplish our mission by providing multi-disciplinary training and technical assistance to sexual assault responders in Oregon and nationally.

<sup>2</sup> 2017 Advocate and Legal Service Survey Regarding Immigrant Survivors <http://www.tahirih.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/2017-Advocate-and-Legal-Service-Survey-Key-Findings.pdf>