

**Statement in Support of SB 506
Senate Committee on Human Services
On behalf of the Oregon State Bar**

February 6, 2017

When the Oregon Legislature passed the original child abuse reporting statute in 1993, it designated a wide range of professionals as mandatory reporters in order to safeguard children and ensure that credible abuse allegations were thoroughly investigated. Since then the list of mandatory reporters has been expanded, and we have created a similar statutory regime for cases of elder abuse.

The Oregon State Bar supports fair and robust reporting requirements for all cases of child and elder abuse, both for attorneys and other public officials. SB 506 will hopefully help streamline the process by eliminating duplicate reporting in cases where an attorney knows that a proper elder abuse report has already been made, but where the current statute would require them to make the report anew.

We are supportive of the concept contained in SB 506. However, after reviewing the proposed language we would suggest that the language used in the bill be made parallel to the language for child abuse reporting in ORS 419B.010(2).

The use of parallel language is more efficient from a training perspective since mandatory reporters of elder abuse are generally also going to be mandatory reporters of child abuse. Additionally, by using consistent language you avoid any confusion regarding whether some types of abuse would be reportable in one regime but not the other.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to continue working with the legislature to strengthen Oregon's abuse reporting requirements.