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## Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force

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**Testimony in support of SB 1540 A**  
**Senate Committee on Human Services & Housing**  
**Submitted by: Michele Roland-Schwartz, Executive Director**  
**February 20, 2018**

Chair Keny-Guyer members of the Senate Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force<sup>1</sup>, we submit this testimony in support of SB 1540 A, which modifies the definition of child abuse for purposes of mandatory reporting.

SATF works to eliminate the root causes of sexual violence in order to stop sexual violence before it occurs. We believe that it is possible for Oregonians to successfully address and prevent sexual violence in our institutions, communities and relationships and to promote a peaceful, safe and healthy environment in which all Oregonians can live and thrive.

The spirit of SB1540 A aligns with the mission of SATF, which is to advance a collaborative, survivor-centered, trauma informed approach to the prevention of and response to sexual violence in Oregon. A basic tenet of our work to reduce violence is to ensure that youth have access to age appropriate, medically accurate information, allowing them to make thoughtful choices about their relationships and health. The current interpretation of the law in some parts of our state, instructing teachers and staff to report consensual sexual activity, reduces the likelihood that youth will access a trusted adult when they need them, while simultaneously straining an already burdened system with unnecessary.

Opening opportunities to promote healthy and safe attitudes and beliefs about sexuality will not only reduce unintended pregnancies and transmission of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), but will encourage youth to engage in and build a culture of consent, reducing and eliminating violence and abuse. For this reason, we encourage your support of SB 1540 A.

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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 appointed by Attorney General Rosenblum. Members 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.