



Oregon Voices
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Feb. 5, 2019

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety

Sen. Jackie Winters, Co-Chair

Rep. Carla Piluso, Co-Chair

Sen. Dennis Linthicum

Sen. James Manning Jr.

Rep. Janelle Bynum

Rep. Gary Leif

Rep. Tawna Sanchez

Rep. Duane Stark

Testimony on SB 5528

Co-Chairs Winters and Piluso and members of the committee:

My name is Ken Nolley and I am writing on behalf of Oregon Voices—a group that advocates for evidence-based practices with regard to laws and policies dealing with sex crimes. I have had the privilege since the fall of 2015 of serving on the subcommittee charged with implementing the new registry resulting from HB 2549 in 2013. I have also served for the past year and a half on a sub-sub-committee under BPPPS; it was charged with developing procedures and rules for the handling petitions for relief from registration and for reclassification to a lower risk level.

I have not discussed this letter previously with BPPPS members and do not have access to their most recent thinking. However, I have had a front row view of the work that the Board is doing to score and place people on risk levels, and I am aware of the general pace of their progress as well as the size of their assigned task.

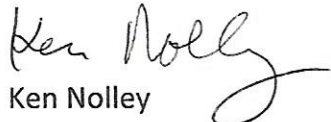
The legislature has instructed the Board to give priority to the scoring of people coming out of incarceration or moving into the state. They devote whatever resources remain to the task of scoring persons from the pool of historical registrants—a number that now has hit 30,000. It appears that perhaps 24,000 of those historical registrants still have to be scored and classified. At a rate of 1200/year, it would take 20 years to clear that backlog of registrants, many of whom have been on the registry for two decades or even more. Six years after the passage of the original bill, we are not remotely close to that pace.

As of this past January 1, persons who have been offense-free for five years since they were released from supervision are eligible to apply for relief or reclassification. Thankfully the initial number of applicants is small, but the pool of eligible persons is very large. When people begin to understand that they are eligible to apply for relief or reclassification, those numbers will grow substantially. When it does, the Board will have to handle these cases along with the scoring/classification task it has been working on now for several years.

My point is that even with this level of funding, a fully risk-based registry is, at best, many years away. If we are to reduce the size of the Oregon registry in a reasonable time frame, and thus free up resources for other more effective ways of preventing sexual abuse, we will also need to develop other strategies for managing this problem.

The Static-99R package now includes new extensively researched data on desistance from offending with time spent offense-free in the community. One strategy might be to explore ways to employ that data to expedite this process. There may be other ways to speed this process up as well. We in Oregon Voices urge you to support this funding request and to work with the Board to see what other strategies Oregon might adopt to move this project forward in a safe and evidence-based way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Nolley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Ken Nolley
Oregon Voices Board Member