



Testimony on HB 2657

This testimony is in support of HB 2657

Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs Sprenger and Gorsek, and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

The [Oregon Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers](#) (OATSA) is the state chapter of the [Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers](#) (ATSA), an international, multi-disciplinary nonprofit membership organization that promotes evidence based practices, public policy, and community strategies that lead to the effective assessment, treatment and management of individuals who have sexually abused or are at risk to abuse. ATSA and OATSA promote the philosophy that empirically based assessment, practice, management, and policy strategies will: enhance community safety, reduce sexual recidivism, protect victims and vulnerable populations, transform the lives of those caught in the web of sexual violence, and illuminate paths to prevent sexual abuse. OATSA focuses on the following goals for our local communities:

- Elimination of sexual victimization;
- The protection of our communities through responsible and ethical treatment of individuals who have sexually abused or are at risk to abuse;
- The prevention of sexual assault through effective management of individuals who have sexually abused or are at risk to abuse;
- The maintenance of high standards of professionalism and integrity within its membership.

OATSA supports HB 2657 that will establish \$3 million in dedicated funding to ensure greater capacity for community-based nonprofits, culturally specific, and tribal programs to implement violence prevention education in K-12 and other community settings.

OATSA recognizes the intent of this bill is to grow violence prevention programs that promote healthy relationships, teach bystander intervention skills, promote norms change, and prevention of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating and interpersonal violence. These goals are in step with OATSA's mission and goals for community prevention of sexual abuse.

Our shared goals of community safety and the prevention of sexual abuse are maximized when laws and policies for the education and prevention of our communities is allowed to continue. HB 2657 increases the audience that may benefit from these beneficial and effective prevention programs.

Submitted on behalf of the OATSA Board by Kelley Chimenti – OATSA President

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