



Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force

**Senate Judiciary Committee
Testimony in support of HB3117A
May 1, 2019**

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

On behalf of The Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force, I write to urge your support of HB3117A, which would ensure implementation of the purpose of Oregon's Family Abuse Protection Act.

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.

Our mission is to advance a multi-disciplinary, survivor-centered approach to the prevention of and response to sexual violence in Oregon. Our goal is to prevent sexual violence from happening in the first place, while simultaneously improving our response efforts to mitigate trauma and ensure the safety and security of all victims.

Oregon's *Family Abuse Protection Act* is a critical form of relief for survivors and their children. It provides an important layer of protection from abuse and assault. When an order of protection does its job – provides protection – that should not be cause for a dismissal of the order. The primary purpose of the order is to resolve the issue of imminent danger. Dismissing the order because imminent danger is resolved by the order or by other safety planning, puts survivors in a catch-22 during one of the most dangerous stages of a violent relationship – when they are trying to leave.

HB 3117A makes a reasonable change to current law to ensure that a victim of sexual and domestic violence who takes steps to protect themselves doesn't lose that protection if there was no abuse after obtaining a temporary order.

HB3117 A builds on the great work that Oregon has put in place for survivors and makes necessary amendments to meet the needs of a victims who need this critical remedy to establish safety. For these reasons we urge your support of HB3117A.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MRS" followed by a stylized flourish.

Michele Roland-Schwartz
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