



Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force

**Senate Judiciary Committee
Testimony in support of SB1568
February 5, 2020**

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

On behalf of The Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force, I urge your support of SB1568, protecting vulnerable youth in Oregon.

The Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force is a private, non-profit, non-governmental statewide agency with over 100 multi-disciplinary members appointed by the Attorney General. Members serve as advisors on 1 of 8 subcommittees including: Advocacy Response, Campus, Criminal Justice, Legislative & Public Policy, Medical-Forensic, Men's Engagement, Offender Management, and Prevention Education.

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.

A critical component to improving our response systems to sexual violence in Oregon is connecting survivors with individuals who meet their needs immediately. In the case of vulnerable populations who would be most impacted by passage of SB1568, appointing a trusted adult as their guardian is the first step in ensuring that we mitigate future trauma and the impact of other systems set up to serve survivors.

People who perpetrate sexual violence target individuals who are considered vulnerable, accessible, and perceived to be lacking in credibility. Youth who are non-U.S. Citizens are particularly vulnerable to incidents of abuse and violence, which compounds any trauma they have already experienced. Connecting youth with a trusted adult is an opportunity to intervene in future risks of perpetration and other adverse experiences, like homelessness and trafficking (to name a few).

As a statewide technical assistance provider and trainer for advocacy, law enforcement, prosecution, SANes/healthcare, campus practitioners and more - SATF firmly believes that connecting survivors with professions and individuals who can meet their most immediate needs reduces the long-term impact on the various interconnected systems in Oregon. If we can directly connect a survivor with a guardian, as is the case in SB1568, we reduce the need and heavy reliance on future resources, increasing both the efficiency and effectiveness of our responses to survivors.

SB1568 offers a path toward healing for vulnerable youth who have experienced the trauma of parental abuse, neglect, or abandonment. For these reasons we urge your support of SB1568.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MRS', written in a cursive style.

Michele Roland-Schwartz
Executive Director
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