



Oregon Voices
PO Box 13175
Salem, OR 97302

March 15, 2021

TO: Senate Judiciary Committee
RE: SB 752

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher and members of the committee:

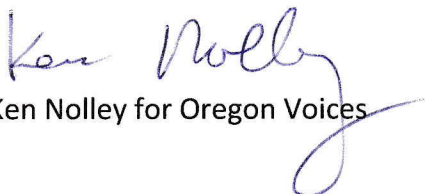
I am writing on behalf of Oregon Voices to urge your support for SB 752. Since we began this work ten years ago, we have encountered one story with discouraging regularity. It is the account of a young person (usually male, but not always) where a young person had a sexual relationship with a somewhat younger person. Often the difference in age is not more than the stipulated 5 years, and often we hear that the older one was given to believe that the victim in the case was over 18. In some cases, they believed that the victim was at least over 16. Often this came from verbal assurances. In some cases, it was backed up by what turned out to be a false ID.

Oregon Voices does not encourage or condone early sexual relationships. But we also know that young people from all kinds of families do get into sexual relationships at an earlier age than we adults think healthy and wise. We also know that in a great many of these cases, the relationships are neither abnormal nor predatory.

One very sad result of current law as it is applied is that it places some of these young persons on the registry for many years. The registry complicates and sometimes eliminates the prospects for higher education, and usually makes a decent start in the job market impossible. In these cases, we believe that society and justice can be served without the degree of ancillary damage that comes from long sentences and the blighting of the first 15 or 20 years of these young persons' lives after whatever incarceration ensues.

We urge your support of SB 752.

Sincerely,



Ken Nolley for Oregon Voices