



Support SB572
Senate Judiciary & Ballot 110 Implementation Committee
February 2, 2021

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 SB572, protecting vulnerable youth in Oregon. The mission of SATF, a private, non-profit, non-governmental statewide agency, 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 SB572, 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 SB572, we reduce the need and heavy reliance on future resources, increasing both the efficiency and effectiveness of our responses to survivors. SB572 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 SB572.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Roland-Schwartz
Executive Director
Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force
michele@oregonsatf.org