



Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation

SB820 Testimony

Submitted by: Natalie Hollabaugh, Law Student Staff Member
Youth Legal Clinic (part of the Criminal Justice Reform Clinic at Lewis & Clark Law School)

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

The Lewis & Clark Law School's Youth Legal Clinic, urges support of SB820 which will standardize sex offense specific treatment by removing exceptions of certain persons providing treatment in Oregon. SB820 promotes a structure that will help ensure sexual offense specific treatment is ethical, evidence based and utilizes up to date standards of practice.

The Youth Legal Clinic provides legal services to incarcerated youth throughout the Oregon Youth Authority with a focus on assisting youth in accessing the courts, using the law library, understanding their rights and legal issues, filing legal documents and researching legal claims. Our work with youth also includes legal navigation where we provide legal support for broad issues ranging from civil legal aid to barrier reduction. Ultimately, we focus on ensuring youth in OYA have access to legal support if they need it. We support modifications to programs and treatment in OYA that improve outcomes for youth.

Background: The goal of sex offense treatment is to diminish the recurrence of abusive behaviors through treatment and rehabilitation. Individuals who undergo this type of therapy are often referred or mandated by government agencies such as the Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision, state or community corrections or the courts. The Sexual Offender Treatment Board within the Oregon Health Licensing Office is responsible for overseeing the practices of certified clinical sex offender therapists in the state. When the Sexual Offense Treatment Board (SOTB) was founded, it was always the intent that the SOTB would outline evidence-based standards of practice for sex offense treatment, and provide protections against unethical practice for all

individuals receiving sexual abuse specific treatment services. Additionally, it was the original intent for sexual abuse specific treatment to be recognized as an area of specialization which required specific training and expertise in addition to a traditional mental health licensure.

Concept: SB820 will help to ensure that that only competent professionals are providing adult and adolescent sex offense treatment, and that they utilize up to date standards of practice for sexual abuse specific treatment that is both ethical and evidence based. For these reasons we urge your support of SB820.

Respectfully submitted,

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Youth Legal Clinic

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