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## Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force

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**Testimony in support of SB820**  
**Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation**  
**Submitted by: Michele Roland-Schwartz, Executive Director**  
**March 31, 2021**

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

On behalf of the Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force (SATF), **I am submitting this letter in support of SB820.**

SATF is a private, non-profit, non-governmental statewide agency with over 100 multi-disciplinary members who serve as advisors to the Task Force,<sup>1</sup> advancing our mission to support a multi-disciplinary, survivor-centered approach to the prevention of and response to sexual violence in Oregon.

**Background** The Sex Offender Treatment Board (SOTB) was established in 2007 following the passage of HB 3233, and is administered by the Oregon Health Licensing Office (OHLO). The SOTB was the first step toward recognizing sex offense specific treatment as a specialization and positively impacted treatment by developing professional standards of practice and guidelines. SATF and partners have since worked with the legislature to enhance the SOTB through the passage of HB2633 in 2017 and HB2472 in 2019, expanding the jurisdiction of the treatment board to include adjudicated and non-adjudicated sexual abusers, expanding various tracks of certification available to increase treatment capacity across the state, and requiring treatment providers to become certified with several exemptions.

**SB820** removes the certification exemption for *a person employed by a local, state or federal government agency, community mental health program or drug and alcohol treatment program licensed or certified in this state, if the person's activities and services are performed and provided within the person's scope of employment.* This change predominantly impacts justice-involved adolescent youth, ensuring they have the same opportunity as adults to file a complaint with the OHLO if they experience unethical treatment from a clinician.

Treatment providers assume a vital role in protecting the public from sexual abusers who remain in the community. Protection of the community can be undermined by a lack of regulated and approved practices. Moreover, it is critically important that the treatment professionals who have been charged with reducing recidivism and rehabilitating sexual abusers have the specific education, training and skills necessary. For these reasons, we urge your support of SB820.

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<sup>1</sup> Members are appointed by Attorney General Rosenblum and 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.