



KATHERINE GOTCH, MA, LPC

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March 29, 2021

The Honorable Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair
The Honorable Senator Kim Thatcher, Vice-Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee, Members

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 820

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Katherine Gotch and I am an Oregon Licensed Professional Counselor and Certified Clinical Sexual Offense Therapist who specializes in the evaluation and treatment of individuals who have sexually abused or are at risk to abuse. I have worked in the field of sexual abuse prevention for over 20 years and currently serve as the Public Policy Board Representative for the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA), an Advisory Board Member for the National Partnership to End Interpersonal Violence Across the Lifespan (NPEIV), and the Policy Advisor for the Oregon ATSA Chapter. I am also one of the subject matter experts for the OHA – SOTB, as well as a certified Static-99R/STABLE & ACUTE-2007 trainer. I was the principle author of HB 3233, which created the Oregon Sexual Offense Treatment Board, and have been a participant in the workgroups focused on improvements to HB 3233 that resulted in the passage of HB 2633 in 2017, HB 2472 in 2019, and development of this current legislation. I was also the content expert and co-author for HB 2549 which developed a risk assessment based level system for individuals convicted of sexual crimes in Oregon.

When the concept for HB 3233 was first being developed, it was always the intent that the Sexual Offense Treatment Board (SOTB) would provide oversight and evidence-based standards of practice for *all* professionals providing sexual abuse specific treatment services in Oregon. It was also 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 traditional mental health licensure. Public safety is increased when evidence-based standards are consistently utilized and practitioners receive proper training and supervision.

SB 820 strengthens the prior amendments to HB 3233 which were passed in 2017 (HB 2633) and 2019 (HB 2472) as it moves Oregon into alignment with our goal of consistent oversight and evidence-based standards of practice for **all** sexual abuse specific treatment professionals. The majority of individuals receiving sexual abuse specific programming are justice-involved and, as such, it makes sense that all professionals providing sexual abuse specific programming – whether working in the community or in a correctional institution - demonstrate the appropriate training and expertise through specialized certification.

Consistent use of evidence-based practices that maximize the potential for offender rehabilitation and reformation enhance community safety and reduce recidivism risk. SB 820 further strengthens the current sexual abuse specific treatment provider certification process and ensures consistent practice standards, ethical guidelines, and expectations for continuing education are present for all professionals providing sexual abuse specific treatment programming.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Katherine Gotch", written over a horizontal line.

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