



TO: Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation
FROM: Mae Lee Browning, Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association
DATE: March 31, 2021
RE: Support for SB 820

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

My name is Mae Lee Browning and on behalf of OCDLA, I write to express support for SB 820.

The Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association is a nonprofit professional association for experts, private investigators, and attorneys who represent Oregon's children and parents in juvenile dependency proceedings, youth in juvenile delinquency proceedings, adults in criminal proceedings at the trial and appellate level, as well as civil commitment proceedings throughout the state of Oregon.

SB 820 will standardize sex offense specific treatment by removing exceptions of certain persons providing treatment in Oregon. SB 820 promotes a structure that will help ensure sexual offense specific treatment is ethical, evidence based and utilizes up to date standards of practice.

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 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.

SB 820 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. Public safety is increased when evidence-based standards are used and practitioners receive proper training and supervision.

OCDLA urges your support SB 820. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

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