



Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force

**House Judiciary Committee
Support SB819A
Submitted by: Michele Roland-Schwartz
May 18, 2021**

Chair Bynum, Vice Chairs Noble and Power, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of The Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force¹, I urge your support of SB819A. We appreciate the outreach from proponents of the bill as they sought to ensure, in good faith, trauma informed victim notification and access to advocacy programs as components of implementation.

As demonstrated during robust and highly visible national conversations about the backlog of untested sexual assault forensic evidence kits, a focus on when and how we notify victims is of great importance². Notification must happen as quickly as possible, and must be done with great care, recognizing that significant time may have passed from the moment of victimization to when the justice system notifies victims of changes to their case, including if and when resentencing occurs. Survivors may be in relationships with partners they have not disclosed their trauma experiences with. They may be new parents or experiencing other significant and normal life transitions. Notification must take these life changes into consideration and be prepared to support survivors when we re-engage them.

SATF expects criminal justice partners to employ considerable care when notifying victims, including making a connection to a local advocate from a nonprofit domestic and sexual violence program, District Attorney Victim Assistance program, a culturally specific or responsive program, and/or tribal domestic and sexual violence advocacy program.

We appreciate the opportunity to weigh in on legislation that seeks to enact fairness and alternatives to justice in Oregon, particularly for adjudicated youth brought back into our community. We commit to supporting implementation of SB819A and advancing any needed adjustments in collaboration with proponents of this legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB819A.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MRS", is positioned above the typed name of the signatory.

Michele Roland-Schwartz
Executive Director

¹ The Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force is a private, non-profit, non-governmental statewide agency with over 100 multi-disciplinary members who serve as advisors to advance our mission to improve the response to and prevention of sexual violence in Oregon.

² Untested Kits & Survivor Notification: Recommendations for Oregon:
<http://oregonsatf.org/wpcontent/uploads/2016/12/AGSATF-Survivor-Notification-Recommendations-After-Processing-Untested-SAFE-Kits.pdf>