



**TO: Rep. Jason Kropf, Chair
Rep. Kim Wallan, Vice Chair
Rep. Tom Anderson, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary**

**FR: Amanda Dalton
Oregon District Attorneys Association**

RE: HB 3345 – SUPPORT

March 13, 2023

The Oregon District Attorney's Association (ODAA) writes in support of HB 3345, which would eliminate the Statute of Limitations (SOL) for certain sex crimes where the perpetrator was identified through DNA analysis. The SOL is a limitation on the amount of time the State has to initiate a prosecution following the commission of a crime.

Many states, such as Alaska, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming, do not have a SOL for most sex abuse crimes, while many other states have significantly extended the SOL for such conduct. In Oregon, there is no SOL for any degree or theory of murder, or any degree of manslaughter, and the SOL has already been extended for certain sex crimes if there is additional corroborating evidence that supports the DNA identification.

Specifically, Oregon law has already eliminated the SOL for Rape in the First Degree, Sodomy in the First Degree, Unlawful Sexual Penetration in the First Degree, and Sexual Abuse in the First Degree, if there is some other corroborating evidence that supports the DNA identification. The State is then required to commence a prosecution within two years. ORS 131.125(10)(11)(12).

HB 3345 removes the requirement for other corroborating evidence and allows the DNA identification to stand as the primary trigger to allow prosecution to move forward. Often times, victims and survivors of a serious sex crime take years to disclose, or it takes longer for their perpetrator to be identified.

HB 3345 will allow a prosecution to commence at any time after the perpetrator of certain sex crime conduct has been identified by DNA analysis.