

OREGON ATTORNEY GENERAL'S SEXUAL ASSAULT TASK FORCE



SUPPORT SB 1574

FEBRUARY 9th, 2024

SUBMITTED BY: OREGON ATTORNEY GENERAL'S SEXUAL ASSAULT TASK FORCE

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

Thank you for your time and consideration. My name is Eli Cox and I am the Abuse Prevention Coordinator and staff liaison for the Offense Management Committee with the Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force (Oregon SATF). **Along with our colleagues, we urge you to support SB 1574. This critical fix to SB 11 from the 2023 session, would exempt hearings conducted by the Board of Parole and the Psychiatric Security Review Board from being posted on any public website.**

As our mission at Oregon SATF is to facilitate and support a collaborative, survivor-centered approach to the prevention of and response to violence and abuse across the lifespan, our goal is to prevent this violence from happening in the first place, while simultaneously improving our statewide response efforts to mitigate trauma and ensure the safety and security of all victims.

One of the ways that sexual and domestic violence deeply harms victims and survivors is by taking away the control over their own bodies and their own stories. **A key part of healing from this unique form of trauma is to be able to reclaim that control. Publishing or sharing any part of a survivor's story publicly, without their explicit consent, adds another layer of institutional harm and trauma.** Additionally, we know that the survivors of violence are all too often disbelieved, judged, blamed, and even discriminated against for the abuse they experience, thus leading many survivors to safeguard their privacy around being a survivor. If accounts of their victimization are shared widely, the greater the chances it can be viewed by friends, family, colleagues, employers, or others who may use that information to judge or blame the survivor for that experience, even potentially leading to discrimination or unjust treatment in some circumstances.

The stories of justice-involved individuals are also complex, personal, and at times contain experiences of abuse and violence they've experienced themselves. For individuals who are trying to repair harm caused and who are working diligently to change their behaviors, the readily accessible public consumption of their worst moments serves as a detriment to their health, future outcomes, and overall public safety. For all of these reasons, we again urge you to support the fix to SB 11.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eli Cox". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Eli Cox

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