



**TO: Chair Prozanski,  
Vice Chair Thatcher,  
Members of the Committee**

**FR: Oregon District Attorneys Association**

**RE: SB 1574: Section 8 –Support**

**February 13, 2024**

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The Oregon District Attorneys Association (ODAA) writes in support of SB 1574 and Section 8, the proposed change to SB 11(2023) and ORS 192.660. ODAA believes this fix is crucial in protecting victims of crimes from additional harm, which we believe was not the original intent of the legislation passed in 2023.

District Attorneys, their deputies, victim advocates, and office staff all work diligently to protect victims and ensure their privacy throughout criminal cases. However, the current language of SB 11 (2023) could have a direct impact on victim participation, potentially harming their ability to freely exercise their constitutional rights within a criminal case.

Under the current law, all parole board hearings will be published on a website accessible to the public. This unrestricted access allows for unlimited viewing, recording, and sharing of what is often a traumatic and emotional process. Publishing these hearings on a public platform may significantly deter victims from testifying, ultimately diminishing the effectiveness of Parole Board Hearings. Victims frequently grapple with the conflict between their pursuit of justice and the need to safeguard their privacy throughout a case, making participation decisions challenging.

Oregonians firmly believe that victims should have the right to participate in every stage of the criminal process. This proposed fix strikes a necessary balance, protecting victims' rights to engage in critical proceedings while also acknowledging the public's right to access the content of these hearings.