

To whom it may concern,

My name is Jane Mendoza, and I am a concerned parent, school volunteer, and youth sports coach writing in opposition of Senate Bill 821.

I take the safety of my children, the children I volunteer with and my athletes very seriously. One of the most important roles I play is to protect them as best I can from threats they are not yet capable of identifying and managing independently. Two years ago I found out very abruptly that one of my children and the athletes I was coaching had been repeatedly exposed to an athlete's parent who is a convicted sex offender. My role as a coach and mandatory reporter compelled me to further investigate so that we could determine the safest and most ethical path forward. When my coaching staff and I opened the Oregon Sex Offender Registry, we found that there was no match for the offender.. I was absolutely horrified to eventually discover that the state of Oregon has allowed the offender to live here for many years without a risk assessment, despite the state they moved from having assessed them as a level 3 sex offender at high risk of reoffending.

Removing the deadline, and repealing the responsibility of the board reporting on their risk assessments to the legislature tells Oregonians that you are indifferent to the risk many of these sex offenders could pose to our communities, our schools, our children's sports teams and clubs. Removing the deadline removes any urgency and provides an opportunity for this important work to be halted indefinitely, during which time offenders will continue to flock to this state due to its reputation for leniency, and the almost 20,000 convicted offenders currently waiting on their assessment will continue to find it easier to live under the radar, without experiencing the continued consequences of their sexual violence, and putting Oregonians at higher risk of being victimized. Our inefficient assessment of convicted sex offenders has contributed to Oregon having the highest number of sex offenders per capita in the country. The national average is 270 per 100,000, but Oregon leads with 727 per capita.

The safety of our most vulnerable neighbors is at stake, and justice for the victims of these criminals should be prioritized. Removing this deadline and the responsibility of reporting on assessments benefits no one but the criminals, and I strongly oppose Senate bill 821.

Thank you,

Jane Mendoza