

Submitter: Chrystal Brim
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB820

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

We are writing on behalf of the Oregon National Organization for Women Legislative Task Force to express our opposition to Senate Bill 820 & 821. While the bill aims to streamline the parole board's risk assessments for sex offenders, the proposed changes could undermine public safety, transparency, and accountability.

Risk assessments are vital to evaluating the potential threat an individual may pose to society. Removing set deadlines for these assessments would introduce uncertainty, potentially allowing individuals to remain in the community without adequate oversight. This lack of clarity deprives lawmakers and the public of critical information needed to make informed decisions on sex offender management and public safety.

Although we understand the goal of efficiency and the financial constraints at play, we are deeply concerned that Senate Bill 820 & 821 could harm public safety by removing essential safeguards. The proposed changes would delay risk assessments that are necessary for keeping Oregon's communities safe.

Without these protections, there is a significant risk that dangerous offenders may not be properly assessed or monitored, possibly leading to harmful consequences. The absence of clear timelines for risk assessments also increases the likelihood that individuals may be released without an updated understanding of their risk, putting vulnerable populations at risk.

We respectfully urge you to oppose Senate Bills 820 & 821. It is crucial that we maintain timely risk level assessments. It is of the utmost importance that we protect transparency, accountability, and – above all – the safety of our communities. Thank you for your attention to this matter. We trust that you will prioritize the protection of public safety and the well-being of Oregonians in your decision-making.

Sincerely,
Chrystal Brim

Vice-Chair of Oregon National Organization for Women
Member of Oregon National Organization for Women Legislative Task Force