

OREGON ATTORNEY GENERAL'S SEXUAL ASSAULT TASK FORCE



SB 820

March 6th, 2025

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

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

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 my colleagues, we urge you to support Senate Bill 820**, which provides that the State Board of Parole is required to classify sex offender registrants convicted before January 1, 2014, into a risk level only in specified circumstances.

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.

Collaborating with, learning from, and listening to our partners across disciplines is core to the mission of Oregon SATF as we recognize the varied and integral roles we all play in making our communities safer from sexual violence. The Oregon Board of Parole has a unique and critical role in supporting positive change in individuals who have caused harm while also maintaining accountability. We can attest that the Board's staff are dedicated, diligent, and engaged in ensuring a safer Oregon for all and believe that the changes proposed under SB 820 are essential to ensuring that a manageable workload with their given resources; thus allowing them to focus work on the most current and potentially dangerous cases under their jurisdiction. They face a similar challenge as many other agencies and organizations in the field; addressing an ever growing volume with often the same amount of resources.

To support their work, **SB 820 is a data driven approach to focus the Board's limited resources on the individuals who research shows are more likely to potentially be at higher risk for sexual violence recidivism. This increased focus and routing of resources is a strategic approach to enhance community safety.** With an additional proposed amendment from the Board, current registrants who are at the lowest level of risk, would be automatically classified into the Notification Level 1 for purposes of proactive community notification as well.

For these reasons, we urge your support for SB 820.

Sincerely, Eli Cox – Eli@oregonsatf.org

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