

OREGON ATTORNEY GENERAL'S SEXUAL ASSAULT TASK FORCE



Support SB 821

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 821 with the below amendment, which would remove an impossible deadline for the Oregon Board of Parole to classify all sex offender registrants with historical convictions before December 1st, 2026. **Contingent for our support, we would propose an amendment to include language that determines a regular interval for the Board to update the legislature and public on their progress. This bill with the proposed amendment would provide realistic timeframes for this work, while still maintaining accountability that it is completed.**

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.

Imposing a deadline that isn't possible to meet, even with almost tripling the amount of Board staff, doesn't make our communities safer, and in fact, can result in additional layers of harm for victims/survivors who then experience a system that is set up for failure. Victims/survivors deserve to know that the systems holding perpetrators of sexual violence accountable are working to carry out their duties with transparent and realistic expectations and timeframes. In his testimony, Board Executive Director Dylan Arthur shares the strategies and solid data they are following to focus on individuals with the highest risk, which enhances community safety. Additionally, the testimony of Ken Nolley from Oregon Voices, includes some ideas and

OREGON ATTORNEY GENERAL'S SEXUAL ASSAULT TASK FORCE



strategies that could greatly increase community safety and produce positive health outcomes that could help Oregon move upstream in preventing violence and abuse before it ever happens.

For these reasons, **we urge your support for SB 821 with the proposed amendment to require regular updates to the legislature and public on the progress being made.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eli Cox".

Eli Cox

Eli@oregonsatf.org