

# OREGON ATTORNEY GENERAL'S SEXUAL ASSAULT TASK FORCE



SUPPORT SB 819

March 6<sup>th</sup>, 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 819**, which authorizes the State Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision and the Psychiatric Security Review Board to make determinations administratively concerning petitions for changes in sex offender risk classifications and relief from the reporting requirement.

*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. 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. Time and again we see how their staff are dedicated, diligent, and engaged to ensuring a safer Oregon for all. 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.

With this in mind, it's necessary to find solutions that help preserve our partners' capacity and sustainability. SB 819 provides assistance to the Board's mission of centering community safety while also allowing their discretion to decide whether to hold a hearing after receiving a petition for relief or reclassification, or to consider the petition administratively. Additionally **SB 819 still ensures that if the Attorney General, a district attorney from the jurisdiction of conviction or county residence of registrant, or victim/survivor requests a hearing, the Board shall hold a hearing and not take action to make decisions administratively. At Oregon SATF we appreciate how this shows the continued support for the voices of victims/survivors in the process as well. As long as victims/survivors voices and requests remain central to this process, we support the proposed changes included in SB 819.**

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This bill does not alter any standards of safety survivors still have a voice in requesting a hearing, and the same due diligence will still be applied to each petition. Ultimately having an option for a more efficient process when a hearing isn't called for will allow the Board of Parole to focus their energy on areas of higher need. For these reasons, we urge your support for SB 819.

Sincerely,

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

Eli Cox

Eli@oregonsatf.org