

OREGON ATTORNEY GENERAL'S SEXUAL ASSAULT TASK FORCE



SUPPORT HB 4123-A: PROTECT TENANT PRIVACY

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT
FEBRUARY 24, 2026

Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Andersen, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Shannon Rose and I am submitting testimony of behalf of the Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force (Oregon SATF) in strong support of House Bill 4123.

Formed in 1999 by then Attorney General Hardy Meyers, Oregon SATF is a statewide, nongovernmental nonprofit. Our mission is to facilitate and support a collaborative, survivor-centered approach to the prevention of and response to sexual violence. As a statewide organization, we work with victim and survivor service providers in all of Oregon's 36 counties and bring perspective as to the needs and concerns of survivors of sexual and domestic violence in rural, frontier, and urban communities.

One of the most consistent and pervasive concerns expressed by survivors and the advocates serving them is a fear that private information about them and their children - including their status as victims of violence - will be disclosed without their knowledge and consent. **Control over one's own personal information is absolutely crucial for survivor safety and is often a key element of healing from the power and control over one's own life and circumstance that comes along with experiencing sexual and domestic violence.**

In the course of obtaining housing, landlords have access to large amounts of private information that, if disclosed without permission and care, can lead to devastating consequences. Abuse and its impacts rarely end the moment a survivor is away from the home or person who perpetrated it. Many survivors experience stalking and retaliatory behaviors post-separation. Disclosure of victim status and personal information can

contribute to post-separation abuse and harm, even if unintentionally.

For example:

- 17% of stalking victims report losing a job or a job opportunity*, as employers may be hesitant to employ a person who they deem brings safety risks into the work environment due to being stalked;
- 57% of stalking victims report receiving unwanted texts, emails, and messages* once the stalker has been able to obtain their contact information; and,
- Studies demonstrate that accessing survivor bank accounts and taking money from them is a common abuse tactic experienced post-separation*, highlighting the significant need for extra privacy considerations for victims and survivors.

HB 4123-A appropriately limits the circumstances under which landlords may disclose confidential information. **From a victim services perspective, this bill is consistent with trauma-informed and survivor-centered practices. Confidentiality is foundational to survivor safety, dignity, and trust.** When systems fail to protect that confidentiality, survivors are less likely to seek help, disclose abuse, or maintain stable housing—outcomes that run counter to Oregon’s public safety and housing goals.

Survivors deserve our shared commitment to their privacy when seeking housing and should not have to explain or justify their risk and trauma in order to receive it. On behalf of survivors and the providers that serve them, I urge you to support the passage of HB 4123-A.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter and for your service to Oregon communities.

Sincerely,



Shannon Rose

Executive Director

Oregon Attorney General’s Sexual Assault Task Force

Sources:

1. <https://www.stalkingawareness.org/fact-sheets-and-infographics/>
2. <https://www.stalkingawareness.org/fact-sheets-and-infographics/>
3. Kaittila A, Hakovirta M, Kainulainen H. Types of Economic Abuse in Postseparation Lives of Women Experiencing IPV: A Qualitative Study from Finland. *Violence Against Women*. 2024 Feb;30(2):426-444. doi: 10.1177/10778012221127727. Epub 2022 Sep 29. PMID: 36177605; PMCID: PMC10775644.