



February 22, 2019

The Honorable Representative Jennifer Williamson, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee, Members

**Re: Testimony in Support of HB 2472**

Dear Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs Gorsek and Sprenger, and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (OATSA) submits this letter in support of HB2472.

The [Oregon Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers](#) (OATSA) is the state chapter of the [Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers](#) (ATSA), an international, multi-disciplinary nonprofit membership organization that promotes evidence based practices, public policy, and community strategies that lead to the effective assessment, treatment and management of individuals who have sexually abused or are at risk to abuse. ATSA and OATSA promote the philosophy that empirically based assessment, practice, management, and policy strategies will: enhance community safety, reduce sexual recidivism, protect victims and vulnerable populations, transform the lives of those caught in the web of sexual violence, and illuminate paths to prevent sexual abuse. OATSA focuses on the following goals for our local communities:

- Elimination of sexual victimization;
- The protection of our communities through responsible and ethical treatment of individuals who have sexually abused or are at risk to abuse;
- The prevention of sexual assault through effective management of individuals who have sexually abused or are at risk to abuse;
- The maintenance of high standards of professionalism and integrity within its membership.

OATSA supports HB 2472 as this bill promotes the goals of our organization by providing structure that will help ensure sexual abuse specific treatment is ethical, evidence based and utilizes up to date standards of practice. It ensures that treatment is provided by professionals who are appropriately trained and supervised when necessary, while also providing the needed support and cultivation of appropriately trained new professionals through the development of an intern certification process. It additionally moves Oregon away from harmful labeling through the incorporation of first-person language by changing the terminology from “sexual offender” to “sexual offense” within designations and titles.

HB 2472 additionally supports practitioners by ensuring there is a focus on training and supervision which enhances competency and enrichment of the profession. HB 2472 moves the profession toward consistent standards of practice by all professionals providing sexual abuse specific treatment through the establishment of consistent practice standards, ethical guidelines, and expectations for continuing education. This ensures clients receive the most current and effective sexual offense specific treatment practices which reduce recidivism, facilitate rehabilitation, and keep communities safer. This legislation will also help ensure competency for professionals who are practicing in good faith and accountability for those who are not.

Submitted on behalf of the OATSA Board by Kelley Chimenti – OATSA President  
503-624-4616

[kelleyc@conifercs.com](mailto:kelleyc@conifercs.com)