



Friday, February 22nd, 2019

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

Thank you for your time and willingness to consider our testimony. **The Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence strongly supports House Bill 2472**, which would enhance public safety by improving statewide standards of practice for providers of sex offense-specific treatment programs.

This bill, if enacted into law, will help make Oregon communities safer for everyone. By establishing certification standards, oversight mechanisms, and professional development pathways for providers of sex offense-specific treatment programs, the State will be promoting up-to-date, ethical, evidence-based interventions and encouraging more qualified practitioners to enter this vital field.

Participation in sex offender treatment is often court-mandated for people convicted of sexual offenses, which highlights the urgent need for the State to ensure these providers are practicing consistently, competently, and in good faith. Oversight mechanisms tied to provider certification would also help authorities hold bad actors accountable, promote excellence, and facilitate continuing education and partnership with other stakeholders.

Please join us in supporting this bill to enhance the safety of all Oregonians and provide better pathways to rehabilitation for people convicted of sexual offenses. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Founded in 1978, The Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (OCADSV) is a statewide nonprofit organization that is comprised of 50 member programs, both community-based and tribal nations, that provide advocacy services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking throughout the state.

To learn more about the Coalition, visit: <https://www.ocadsv.org>