



Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force

**Senate Judiciary
Testimony in Support of SB962
March 21, 2019**

Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of The Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force, I write to urge your support of SB962.

The Sexual Assault Task Force is a private, non-profit, non-governmental statewide agency with over 100 multi-disciplinary members appointed by Attorney General Rosenblum. Members serve as advisors on 1 of 8 subcommittees including: Advocacy Response, Campus, Criminal Justice, Legislative & Public Policy, Medical-Forensic, Men's Engagement, Offender Management, and Prevention Education.

Our mission is to advance a multi-disciplinary, survivor-centered approach to the prevention of and response to sexual violence in Oregon. Our goal is to prevent sexual violence from happening in the first place, while simultaneously improving our response efforts to mitigate trauma and ensure the safety and security of all victims.

SB962 remedies a lack of access to critical services for non-citizen victims of sexual and domestic violence by ensuring that when a crime victim contacts local law enforcement in order to seek a U-Visa certification, the law enforcement agency will have a process by which to receive and respond to that request in a timely manner.

Perpetrators of violence target people who are vulnerable, accessible, and perceived to be lacking in credibility. In the instance of violence committed against non-citizens, their immigration status is often used as a tool to exert power and control over them - creating fear for survivors, barriers to their reporting to law enforcement and disclosure to service providers, and an increased risk of experiencing violence. For these reasons we urge your support of SB962.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MRS" followed by a stylized flourish.

Michele Roland-Schwartz
Executive Director
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