



Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force

**Senate Judiciary Committee
Testimony in Support of HB2589
Submitted by: Michele Roland-Schwartz, Executive Director
April 22, 2019**

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of The Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force, **I write to urge your support of HB2589.**

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: Campus, Criminal Justice, Legislative & Public Policy, Medical-Forensic, Men's Engagement, Offender Management, Prevention Education, and Victim Response.

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.

The current language in our law is outdated, harmful, and does not align with the values of SATF, nor does it promote a culture of inclusiveness and safety for all. The LGBTQ community historically and currently experiences disproportionately higher rates of violence¹ and discrimination. Updating our legal code to remove archaic language will remove risk factors of violence in our communities, and allow Oregonians to be who they are, where they are.

For this reason, we urge your support of HB2589.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MRS", is positioned above the typed name of the Executive Director.

Michele Roland-Schwartz
Executive Director
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¹ Prevalence and Characteristics of Sexual Violence, Stalking, and Intimate Partner Violence Victimization— National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, United States, 2011: <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nisvs/summaryreports.html>