



**Senate Rules Committee
Support for SB 48A with Dash 5 Amendments
Submitted by: Michele Roland-Schwartz, Executive Director
May 27, 2021**

Chair Wagner, Vice-Chair Girod, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of The Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force (SATF)¹, I submit this testimony in support of SB48A-5. We are grateful that this important public safety reform measure includes victim input, notification, and safety considerations as part of the -5 amendment. We support the broader effort aimed at accomplishing equitable outcomes for survivors and defendants in our public safety system.

Our mission is improve the response to and prevention of 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 survivors.

Oregon's constitution affords basic rights to crime victims, namely to uphold safety considerations and protection of victims, as well as the public. Reports of sexual violence are already significantly low in comparison to prevalence rates, as victims are often reluctant to engage with our criminal justice system due to experiences of retaliation, not being believed, shame, stigma, isolation, and embarrassment – just to name a few. For this reason, survivor perspectives must be part of necessary criminal justice reform efforts in the future, to ensure we're creating more equitable systems for people who have caused harm while simultaneously ensuring we're not putting survivors at greater risk. This is a difficult balance to strike, but we believe it is possible.

As we invest in important efforts to reform our criminal justice system, SATF urges policy makers and advocates to fully invest in the necessary violence and abuse prevention programs that reduce and/or eliminate the risk of violence happening in the first place. Prevention programs provide a pathway to eliminate violence while concurrently dismantling inequitable processes in the public safety system, as well as in healthcare and education.

We acknowledge and appreciate the broader efforts to reform our bail system, and thank proponents for taking the necessary action to address an unfair system. We are committed to supporting efforts beyond passage of SB48A-5 to make change and further the interests of justice in our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony. I urge your support of SB48A-5.

¹ SATF is a private, non-profit, non-governmental statewide agency with over 100 multi-disciplinary members appointed by Oregon's Attorney General. 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.