

I support HB 2339 also known as Ezras Law. As a Public Health Nurse in Oregon for 32 years I have been a part of several committees and advisory boards around child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault. I am concerned with child abuse case outcomes, both in terms of pain to the survivors and families, and the lack of fair and just sentences toward perpetrators. No child or adult should have to endure the pain of assault and attempted murder against them, and unjust sentences such as in our current sentencing guidelines cause more harm to survivors and families. Many survivors of severe crimes have their way of life forever changed, and having the knowledge that their abuser is being given a light sentence causes even more harm and without appropriate rehabilitation, puts other children and families at grave risk. While I support alternatives to incarceration, when appropriate, I do not feel these types of programs and relatively brief sentencing guidelines protect Oregon's children in the case of violent assaults and attempted murder. Please take the steps necessary to work through the ability to charge aggravated crimes which will have more appropriate sentencing.