



Oregon Voices
PO Box 13175
Salem, OR 97302

Feb. 5, 2022

To: Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation
RE: SB 1512

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee:

I am writing on behalf of Oregon Voices in support of SB 1512. As you know, we work particularly with persons who have a sex offense conviction in their background. In recent years, there has been an increasing tendency to try to shut the door on persons on the sex offender registry without consideration of whether the crimes they committed relate in any way to the duties and responsibilities of the job requiring a license. This bill could change that and help people who wish to rebuild responsible lives to do so.

The impulse to do so is often based on the mistaken assumption that persons who have committed a sex crime are likely to do so again, although the overwhelming evidence shows that is not true. Reported recidivism rates for persons with sex offenses is very low. For example, a 2017 Oregon CJC study showed a 1.8% sex offense recidivism rate over the next three years for persons emerging from incarceration after a sex crime.¹ And the same research team that developed the Static 99R, which we use to determine risk for the Oregon registry, has found that whatever level of risk one presented initially at release, that risk declines by about 50% with each five-year period spent offense-free in the community.² This bill sets up processes in which this evidence can be a part of the decision-making process.

We also applaud the provisions in the bill for persons who were adjudicated as juveniles. Often, the offenses for which they faced juvenile court have nothing to do with the lives they will live as adults.

Oregon Voices strongly supports this bill.

Sincerely,


Ken Nolley for Oregon Voices

¹ CJC, *Oregon Recidivism Analysis 2017*, p. 20.

² R. Karl Hanson and others, "Reductions in Risk Based on Time Offense-Free in the Community: Once a Sexual Offender, Not Always a Sexual Offender," *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*, 2018, Vol. 24, No. 1, 48 – 63.