

William S. Relyea, JD  
City of West Linn, City Councilor  
3016 Sabo Lane  
West Linn, OR 97068  
[wrelyea@westlinnoregon.gov](mailto:wrelyea@westlinnoregon.gov)

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I urge the Senate Committee on Judiciary to support SB974 as a means of strengthening the laws in Oregon to make it a criminal act to sexually assault through fraudulent representation.

Reformation would acknowledge that some professional settings are used as a pretense to create a setting wherein the victim is lulled into thinking that they are giving consent to a procedure that involves the most intimate parts of the body for the perpetrators sexual gratification or arousal.

It is one thing to read about the abuse brought against those who have suffered from the wrongs of the so called professionals, and quite another to sit in a hearing room that is filled with those who are brave enough to speak in a public setting about the abuse. I can assure you that it is a compelling situation and one that has moved me.

Please move this bill forward so that the laws needed for prosecutors to bring criminal charges against those who abuse their position of trust for sexual-gratification or sexual arousal will be codified.

I firmly believe that by strengthening our laws we can stem the abuse that has left our community members victimized. I thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in support of SB974

Best regards, William S. Relyea (Bill), JD  
City Councilor, City of West Linn