

OREGON ATTORNEY GENERAL'S SEXUAL ASSAULT TASK FORCE



SUPPORT SB 473 SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

APRIL 4, 2023

SUBMITTED BY: OREGON ATTORNEY GENERAL'S SEXUAL ASSAULT TASK FORCE

Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Weber, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education:

Thank you for your time and consideration. Our names are Megan Foster (Prevention Program Coordinator) and Eli Cox (Abuse Prevention Coordinator) for the Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force (Oregon SATF). **Along with our colleagues, we invite you to support Senate Bill 473.**

At Oregon SATF, our mission is to facilitate and support a collaborative, survivor-centered approach to the prevention of and response to violence and abuse across the lifespan. Our goal is to prevent this violence from happening in the first place, while simultaneously improving our statewide response efforts to mitigate trauma and ensure the safety and security of all victims. We accomplish our mission by advancing primary prevention and providing multi-disciplinary training and technical assistance to responders in Oregon and nationally.

Erin's Law is much more than child sex abuse prevention. Research¹ shows that when we do our abuse prevention efforts well, we are also working to prevent sexual assault, trafficking, domestic violence, dating violence, suicide, and more. Since its passage in 2015, school districts, community partners, and the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) have been working tirelessly to implement Erin's Law and have made incredible strides.

Ensuring trafficking prevention is included in Oregon's educational programming is both meaningful and critical, and we support the intent of this bill. In order to ensure schools have the best chance to implement comprehensive, robust, multi-strategy approaches to preventing trafficking and abuse, we recommend the committee and bill authors change the language included in the bill (as written) from "curriculum" back to the original language in Erin's Law "instructional program."

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Senate Bill 473 could bolster existing efforts to prevent violence and abuse and more firmly support trafficking prevention throughout Oregon's 197 school districts, a critical effort to promote the health and safety of youth in Oregon.

Thank you again for your time and investment in youth throughout Oregon. Please let us know if we can answer any questions moving forward.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Megan Foster", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Megan Foster
Prevention Program Coordinator
Megan@oregonsatf.org

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eli Cox", with a stylized, cursive script.

Eli Cox
Abuse Prevention Coordinator
Eli@oregonsatf.org

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2017, November 7). Connecting the dots. Connecting the Dots. Retrieved January 31, 2023, from <https://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/apps/connecting-the-dots/>