

OREGON ATTORNEY GENERAL'S SEXUAL ASSAULT TASK FORCE



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY SUPPORT HB 4146

FEBRUARY 7, 2024

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Andersen and Wallan, and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

Greetings. I am writing to you as the Executive Director of Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force, an organization dedicated to compassionately responding to and preventing sexual violence. **On behalf of our agency, we urge your support of HB 4146.**

The Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force is a private, non-profit, non-governmental statewide agency (501c-3 nonprofit), operating four programs and coordinating over 100 multi-disciplinary members who serve as advisors on our Task Force Advisory Committee: Advocacy Response, Campus, Criminal Justice, Legislative & Public Policy, Medical-Forensic, Men's Engagement, Offender Management, and Prevention Education.

Our mission is to facilitate and support a collaborative, survivor-centered approach to the prevention of and response to sexual violence. We accomplish our mission by advancing primary prevention and providing multi-disciplinary training and technical assistance to responders in Oregon and nationally.

In 2019, our agency proudly supported Attorney General Rosenblum to initiate Oregon's first law banning the illegal dissemination of intimate images (HB 2393). Since then, the non-consensual sharing of intimate images (colloquially referred to as "revenge porn"), has become an increasingly prevalent form of abuse in our digital age. **The impacts on survivors are severe and enduring, ranging from emotional distress and reputational harm to potential threats to their physical safety.**

Survivors of revenge porn often face significant challenges in seeking justice due to outdated or inadequate legislation. The fast-paced evolution of technology has outpaced our legal framework, leaving survivors vulnerable and underserved. It is crucial that our laws keep pace with the rapid advancements in digital communication to ensure justice, protection, and support for those affected.

Here are several key reasons why we believe passing HB 4146 is imperative:

- 1. Protection of Individual Privacy:** The unauthorized sharing of intimate images is a direct violation of an individual's privacy rights. Strengthening our current statutes will send a clear message that such behavior is unacceptable, and will be met with legal consequences.
- 2. Empowerment of Survivors:** A robust legal framework empowers survivors to seek justice and reclaim control over their lives. Adequate legislation ensures that survivors have the necessary tools to hold those who have harmed them accountable for their actions.
- 3. Prevention of Further Harm:** By updating our current statute to include instances where the survivor is identifiable, even if not by their specific likeness, we not only support survivors but also send a powerful deterrent message to potential perpetrators. Clear and enforceable laws act as a deterrent, contributing to the prevention of future instances of the illegal dissemination of intimate images.
- 4. Adaptation to Digital Realities:** The ubiquity of social media and other online platforms necessitates legislative updates that account for the unique challenges posed by the digital dissemination of intimate images. Adapting our statutes to address these challenges is essential for effective legal recourse.

Please support HB 4146 in its entirety, supporting survivor's rights to pursue justice and seek remediation and support when they need it most.

If you require any additional information or would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact us. We appreciate your attention to this critical issue, and look forward to your support in making a positive impact on the lives of survivors in our state!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shannon Rose". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Shannon" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Rose".

Shannon Rose
Executive Director
Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force
director@oregonsatf.org