



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision

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February 27, 2024

The Honorable Representative Jason Kropf, Chair
House Judiciary Committee, Members

Re: Testimony for SB1574

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice-Chair's Anderson and Wallan, and Members of the Committee,

During the 2023 legislative session, the legislature passed SB11 which went into effect on January 1, 2024. This bill requires certain executive branch Boards and Commissions that conduct meetings through electronic means to record and promptly publish the recording on a website so that the public may observe or listen to these meetings.

The effect of SB11 on the Board of Parole as well as the Psychiatric Security Review Board (PSRB) is that all hearings conducted with Adults In Custody (AIC) and those under the authority of the PSRB are now to be posted on a public facing website. Posting these hearings in this manner would have a chilling effect on testimony and participation of both AIC's and victims of violent crime as they relive the worst day of their lives for all the world to see and hear. We, along with the PSRB, have grave concerns regarding the impact this would have on AICs and victims as well as the negative impact it will have on the hearings process. Our hearings are already public, however, to view the hearing an individual must take steps to request access and is not allowed to record the hearing. Additionally, if requested through the Public Records Request process, the Board will provide the recording of the hearing. However, again, this requires an individual to take steps to request the record of a specific hearing.

It is our understanding after speaking with the bill's chief sponsor, Senator Gorsek, that this was not the intent of SB11. Rather, SB11 was meant to ensure transparency in governance regarding business decisions and rulemaking.

After speaking to many of our partners about the effects of SB11 we have received letters of support from every corner of the criminal justice system. These include letters of support from: The Oregon District Attorney's Association, The Oregon Crime Victim's Law Center, The Attorney General's Sex Assault Task Force, The Oregon Association for the Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Abuse, the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners and from our highly qualified team of defense attorneys who work with us on Board cases.

Thank you for your consideration of the statutory language enclosed in SB1574 to address this issue, and we urge your support.

Chair,

John Bailey

Executive Director,

Dylan Arthur