

REPRESENTATIVE ANNESSA HARTMAN (SHE/HER)
HOUSE DISTRICT 40



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Wallan and Chotzen, Members of the Committee,

My name is Annessa Hartman, and I have the honor of serving as the State Representative for House District 40, representing Gladstone, Oregon City, and parts of North Clackamas County. I'm writing to express my strong support of HB 2474, a measure that takes an overdue step in modernizing our laws to enhance protections for children who are victims of serious crimes, including sexual abuse and strangulation.

Crimes against children are among the most horrific offenses in our society. Yet, our laws have not kept pace with our evolving understanding of familial structures or the lifelong trauma that these crimes inflict on young survivors. Current Oregon statutes covering Rape I, Sodomy I, and Unlawful Sexual Penetration I recognize certain familial relationships as aggravating factors, but only when committed by a biological relative or a legal spouse.

HB 2474 updates these definitions to include protections for adopted children and siblings, as well as children of a person's current or former spouse or sexually intimate partner. This ensures that all children—regardless of their family structure—are equally protected from sexual abuse under the law.

This bill also strengthens protections for child victims of strangulation—a crime highly correlated with long-term trauma and increased risk of homicide. Right now, Oregon law only enhances criminal penalties for strangulation when the victim is under the age of 10. Through HB 2474, we would expand that protection to at least the age of 14.

While I understand ongoing stakeholder discussions may continue to refine the scope of HB 2474, this bill remains a necessary step forward in modernizing Oregon's laws on child sex abuse and violent crimes against children, and I urge your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annessa Hartman".

Representative Annessa Hartman
House District 40 – Gladstone, Oregon City, North Clackamas County