

OREGON ATTORNEY GENERAL'S SEXUAL ASSAULT TASK FORCE



OPPOSE HB 3095 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY FEBRUARY 25, 2025

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments on HB 3095. **On behalf of the Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force (Oregon SATF), we are submitting testimony to express our strong concern regarding HB 3095,** which would establish a rebuttable presumption of equal parenting time in family law proceedings.

Formed in 1999 by then Attorney General Hardy Meyers, the Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force (or Oregon SATF) is a statewide, nongovernmental nonprofit. 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.

At Oregon SATF, we understand that sexual violence, domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse, human trafficking, and other forms of violence and abuse are connected. They are perpetrated through the use of power and control to manipulate, terrorize, and harm victims. This understanding informs our perspective that HB 3095 could cause tremendous harm for victims of abuse and their children. While HB 3095 may seek to focus on the idea of 'fairness' when determining parenting time in family law proceedings, fairness as a concept simply is not applicable when cases involve sexual and domestic violence. Children are often used as a tool of continued manipulation and control in these situations, and these dynamics must be understood and considered carefully in individualized assessments of the children's best interests and safety.

HB 3095 would not only facilitate opportunities for continued abuse and manipulation of children, but also place a burden on parents that are

victims of violence and abuse to overcome a legal presumption. This could require victims to re-live and center the trauma and abuse they and their children have experienced in order to achieve safe outcomes in family law proceedings. As advocates, we know that doing so often results in retaliation, increased trauma, and escalating safety risks for victims and their children.

We recommend a do not pass on HB 3095 and a continued commitment to individualized assessments of parenting time and custodial decisions in family law proceedings in order to ensure safer outcomes for victims and their children.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shannon Rose".

Shannon Rose
Executive Director
Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force