

Submitter: Scott Strickland  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1122  
To: Senator Prozanski, chair, and members of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
From: Scott Strickland, Portland  
Re: Senate Bill 1122, pertaining to sex offender risk assessment methodology  
Oppose  
March 7, 2025

I am opposed to the proposed change in sex offender risk assessment methodology. Sex offenders are as diverse a group of individuals as any other population group. Skilled professionals need to consider this diversity as they assess the risk that a person poses to society.

Oregon has a history of looking at each person as an individual. Based on input from a broad group of professionals a reasonable program for considering each individual has been developed and has stood the test of time. Senate bill 1122 proposes to change this successful program without any scientific basis to support the change. Any program needs constant assessment to assure its continued value but this bill is change for the sake of change. There is no proven value to this narrow criterion for evaluating what is a highly diverse group of people. The proposed change excludes valuable information.

Significant issues that impact a person's risk of reoffending include several factors. Past and current mental health issues effect an individual's behavior. What mental health diagnoses exist and how have they responded to treatment? What is the person's social situation? Is there family engagement and support? Do they know how to navigate social situations that do not include the factors that caused their offence? Have they engaged in therapy, employment and social groups that discourage criminal behavior?

Have you changed during your life? Are you defined by the worst things you have done? We have the capacity to change. I encourage you to allow the professionals that work with sex offenders to look at the broad arc of a person's life as they assess future risks to society.

Vote "no" on Senate Bill 1122.

Thank you