



Oregon Voices
PO Box 13175
Salem, OR 97302

March 4, 2025

Senator Prozanski (Chair),
Senator Thatcher (Vice-Chair),
and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

SB 820 has inspired a great deal of passionate comment, although unfortunately much of what has been said seems to rest upon a critical misunderstanding of the changes that SB 820 poses. Nothing in this bill releases any person on the registry of their obligation to register. Indeed, what SB 820 does is to prioritize the scoring and classification of historical registrants whose criminal record or age suggests that they may represent a higher risk of reoffending than the rest of the pool of unscored persons. In the face of limited resources, that is the only responsible course of action.

Although no instrument is perfect, the Static 99R is the most highly regarded and most widely used of risk assessment tools for this job, and for that reason, and Oregon chose to use it for that reason. Since that time, the tool has been updated to include metrics that calculate what developing research has shown—that the original risk of reoffending at time of release declines predictably over time when persons have lived offense-free after returning to the community.

I hope that members of the committee will take the time to understand how and why current practice takes the form it does, both with regard to SB 820 and its companion bills, 819 and 821.

Sincerely,

Ken Nolley for the Oregon Voices