

# OREGON ATTORNEY GENERAL'S SEXUAL ASSAULT TASK FORCE



## SUPPORT SB 602 SENATE COMMITTEE ON RULES APRIL 5, 2025

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham, and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

Thank you for considering this testimony. **On behalf of the Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force (Oregon SATF), I submit this testimony in support of SB 602, to support the recommendations of the state Task Force on modernizing grant funding and contracting.** The recommendations are designed to improve the process and outcomes of government grants and contracts by empowering nonprofits to deliver critical services efficiently and cost effectively to Oregonians.

*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.*

Our organization has experienced a variety of challenges with our government grants and contracts over the years, including:

- late payments and reimbursements which impedes critical cash flow to keep payments for services and staff salaries going out the door;
- lack of Cost of Living Allowance increases (COLA), which inhibits workforce growth and sustainability; and,
- overburdensome reporting requirements which require disproportionate amounts of time to complete and often require duplicative information.

I want to clearly state that I don't believe these to be individual human

issues, but rather systemic ones. I have found that many government grant coordinators and staffers are doing their best to create efficient systems and processes to work with nonprofit organizations, but the structures and systems themselves create impediments to doing so.

Senate Bill 602, if enacted, improves and streamlines how government grants and contracts are structured and administered. By listening and responding to nonprofit partners across the state, we have an opportunity to make significant changes that will streamline and improve contracting. This, in turn, will allow organizations to spend more time and energy doing the person-centered work of serving their communities.

The Bill would make important changes such as:

- for the first time, having ORS and OAR designed explicitly for managing grants. **This will streamline Oregon's grants management** by promulgating a uniform set of guidelines for state agencies to follow.
- permitting advance payment equal to one-quarter of the annual contract value at the beginning of each new fiscal year for new and continuing contracts and grants. **This helps nonprofits to begin or continue providing services.**

To review all of the task force's findings and recommendations, we encourage you to read the full [report](#).

In partnership with other nonprofit organizations across Oregon, I hope that we can count on your leadership in guiding the passage of Senate Bill 602. Together we can have an opportunity to improve systems that provide critically important programs and services in all corners of Oregon. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Shannon Rose  
Executive Director  
Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force