



Chair Kropf, Vice-chairs Chotzen and Wallan, and members of the House Judiciary committee –

We are writing on behalf of Oregon Voices to **oppose SB 1122**.

Oregon Voices is a grassroots network of individuals who are rebuilding their lives after sex offense convictions, along with their families and supporters. We are members of families that include people who have committed sexual offenses as well as victims of sexual abuse. We provide resources and support for impacted people and advocate for evidence-based responses to sexual harm because we are committed to preventing future harms. We believe that a safe Oregon is possible when our policies toward sexual violence prioritize prevention, healing, rehabilitation, and safe reintegration into society.

That is why we **oppose SB 1122 and urge you to do the same**.

SB 1122 is a flawed attempt to undermine an Oregon Court of Appeals ruling that directed the parole board to take into account desistance (a person living offense-free) from the time a person was released from prison and when they are scored. This bill does not. If SB 1122 passes, it will require the parole board to ignore evidence that demonstrates that a person's risk of reoffending declines the longer that they've been offense-free. SB 1122 would require the parole board to ignore a person's history of living offense-free and instead pretend that evidence of rehabilitation has not occurred.

SB 1122 is confusing, overly broad, and will lead to unintended consequences. SB 1122 will open the state up to further lawsuits challenging the implementation of the sex-offender registry. It will also lead to inequitable results. Our state currently faces a backlog of risk assessments. Two people who are scored the same day may receive the same risk level even though one of them has been successful in treatment and spent many years offense-free and the other person has recently reoffended. This is inherently unfair and will make it more difficult for law enforcement and members of the community to assess the risk that their neighbors pose. It should also be noted that the Oregon District Attorneys Association initially opposed SB 1122 before switching to support it causing significant confusion on the senate floor.

Oregon Voices is committed to implementing evidence based practices to prevent and respond to sexual harm. We trust the science that shows that people are at lower risk to reoffend when they've aged and spent years offense free. Oregon should focus its limited resources on effectively preventing sexual violence. SB 1122 will force the state to misdirect resources toward people who are at minimal risk of reoffending. As we are facing budget cuts, we cannot afford to misdirect resources when more effective prevention methods will keep our state safer.

Respectfully,
Alice Fay and David Mayer
Oregon Voices