

OREGON ATTORNEY GENERAL'S SEXUAL ASSAULT TASK FORCE



OPPOSE SB 1514 PROTECT OREGONIANS FROM CRIMINALIZATION OF HOMELESSNESS FEBRUARY 12, 2026

Dear Chair Meek, Vice-Chair Drazan, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Shannon Rose and on behalf of the Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force (Oregon SATF), I submit this letter in opposition to SB 1514 and its amendments, all of which would roll back the current state law requiring that local ordinances regulating camping must be reasonable.

Experiencing sexual or domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness among women. Additionally, houselessness places people at increased risk for sexual violence. Rolling back current state laws will only exacerbate this risk of violence and harm.

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 with a mission to facilitate and support a collaborative, survivor-centered approach to the prevention of and response to sexual violence. Oregon SATF's programs take a multidisciplinary approach to both prevention and response and our 100+ advisory committee members comprise a diverse network of survivors, community members, and professionals dedicated to this mission.

Across our membership and programs, we have come to develop a deep understanding of the interconnectedness between safety, sexual violence, and the lack of safe, affordable housing. Victims and survivors frequently leave or are forced out of their homes because of a single or repeated experience of violence and abuse, leading to houselessness and housing instability. **When victims and survivors are camping it is because it is the safest available option for them, and they do not deserve to be criminalized for these circumstances.**

Fines and jail time do not work, and only reinforce beliefs and circumstances that meaningful support from systems are not available.

Enforcement-first approaches do not reduce homelessness - they make it worse, as sweeps and punitive ordinances disrupt connections to advocates, outreach workers, healthcare, employment, and other critical support services. Evidence from cities nationwide shows that aggressive enforcement tactics push people from place to place, increasing trauma and risk for additional experiences of violence and abuse, without reducing unsheltered homelessness

Any change to ORS 195.530 would send local governments back to the drawing board on their time/place/manner ordinances and expose localities to unnecessary legal battles. It would also send a message to victims and survivors of violence that there truly is no safe place - driving them back to abusive partners and dangerous living situations.

Legislators should oppose any bills that would rollback or repeal the state law on camping. As it stands, the law permits cities to develop reasonable regulations around public space, while prioritizing humane, proven solutions to homelessness that address root causes.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in opposition to SB 1514.

Sincerely,

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

Shannon Rose
Executive Director
Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force