



Oregon District Attorneys Association, Inc.

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March 14th, 2019

Dear Honorable Members of the Oregon State Senate,

We are writing on behalf of the Oregon District Attorney's Association, a 67 year-old organization that represents Oregon's 36 elected district attorneys. We know you are familiar with ODAA and many of the district attorneys who comprise our organization. We would like to take the opportunity to reach out and provide clarity about who we are and the values we represent.

ODAA's mission statement is "the pursuit of justice through education and advocacy." We are a unique organization comprised of 36 independently elected officials who collectively represent all of Oregon. District Attorneys are non-partisan officials in Oregon and our members include Democrats and Republicans. Our fundamental principles include seeking truth and justice, promoting safety, protecting victim rights, and ensuring truth in sentencing. Importantly, we stand firmly with victims of sexual assault and sexual harassment.

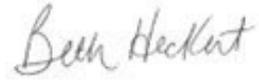
ODAA speaks through its executive board and through those specifically delegated with the authority to operate on its behalf, such as its president and executive director. No one else speaks on behalf of the ODAA. The positions ODAA takes do not always mirror the positions of each of its individual members. Similarly, the statements of individual or former members do not represent the position of ODAA.

Undoubtedly, your members like ours will recall past disagreements and perceived wrongs. Despite this history, we believe we both must recognize that historical differences do not need to control our future relationship.

Our hope to work together in a professional manner does not mean that we will avoid future differences on issues. We most certainly will disagree at times. But you should have absolute confidence in knowing that ODAA's positions will always come from a genuine desire to ensure safe and just communities and our belief that it is our duty to convey these perspectives to you. We understand that as legislators you are inundated with the opinions by individuals and groups attempting to persuade you. We hope that you recognize that we are a unique group of statewide elected officials whose sole purpose is to ensure safety and justice. While we may often be a dissenting voice at times in the Capitol building, we have the overwhelming support of our communities including the Oregonians who we both represent.

The criminal justice challenges ahead are complex. Mental health, the opioid crisis, and juvenile justice issues require an “all hands on deck” approach to address. Our genuine hope is to work with you to address these challenges with the knowledge that we share in common a mutual desire to work in the best interests of all Oregonians.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beth Heckert".

ODAA President

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