

# Legislative Support

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## **Parental Notification is carefully considered policy and it will work.**

As a member of the Oregon House of Representatives, I was honored to be the chief sponsor of the PARENTAL NOTIFICATION BILL. After thorough review by legislative legal experts and close scrutiny through public testimony and legislative debate, the bill was passed by the Oregon House. Its opponents then killed it for political reasons. We citizens now have the power to do what the politicians refused to do. **Ballot Measure 43** is good policy and it will work. Those that tell you otherwise are just playing politics.

Oregon law enables a young girl to have an abortion without her parent's knowledge. When sexual abuse has occurred, under current law the abuser can drive his pregnant teenage victim to a clinic, pay the abortion fee, and drive her home with no one the wiser. **Ballot Measure 43** will stop such sexual abuse from reoccurring, and bring the culprit to justice.

But what about the girl who, for whatever reason, cannot talk to her parents? **Ballot Measure 43** provides a young and inexperienced girl immediate and private access to an independent government representative. After determining the girl understands the nature and consequences of her decision, this concerned adult has authority to give permission in place of her parents. Once again, by talking to a concerned adult, if the pregnancy was caused by sexual abuse, the girl's abuser can be brought to justice.

**My wife and I have raised eight daughters and we now have the privilege of watching our granddaughters grow up. Our hearts reach out to those parents who are left to pick up the emotional pieces of their daughter's broken hearts, without knowing the cause of her deep-rooted depression, self-doubt, and sometimes suicide.**

We need to protect young pregnant girls from continuing sexual abuse while respecting relationships between parents and their daughters.

**Vote YES on Ballot Measure 43.**

Dennis Richardson  
State Representative  
Father of Eight Daughters

