

David Brock Smith
State Senator
District #1
Curry, Coos, & Douglas Counties
900 Court St NE S-316
Salem, OR 97301
503.986.1701



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Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs
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Joint Committee on Ways & Means

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900 COURT ST NE SALEM, OREGON 97301

Press Release

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CONTACT: Shelia Megson
Chief of Staff

Sen.DavidBrockSmith@OregonLegislature.gov

Senator David Brock Smith Statement on Oregon Parole Board's Decision to Deny Parole for Dustin Michael Wallace

SALEM - Senator David Brock Smith (R-Port Orford) issued the following statement in response to the Oregon Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision's decision to deny parole for Dustin Michael Wallace, the individual convicted of the 2010 rape and murder of five-year-old Sahara Dwight. The Board also ruled that Wallace will not be eligible to request another hearing for the maximum period allowed under Oregon law: ten years. Senator Brock Smith was present for the morning portion of the hearing at the Oregon State Prison.

"The Parole Board's decision to deny release for Dustin Michael Wallace is the right and just outcome for the people of Oregon and, most importantly, for the Dwight family," said Senator Brock Smith. "This horrific crime shattered a family and devastated an entire community. The pain of losing a child in such an unimaginable way does not fade with time, and no family should ever be forced to relive that trauma."

Senator Brock Smith emphasized the importance of public safety and the responsibility of state leaders to ensure that violent offenders remain fully accountable for their actions.

"Oregonians expect their government to protect them. They expect that individuals who commit the most heinous acts—especially against children—will face the full consequences of their crimes. Today's decision affirms that expectation, and I am grateful the Board was extremely skilled and diligent, recognized the severity of this case, ultimately upholding its standards and duty to the family, and to safeguard our communities."

The Senator also acknowledged the strength and perseverance of the victim's family throughout the process.

"My heart is with Tyler Dwight and his family. Their courage and dedication in continuing to speak for Sahara, even sixteen years later, is a testament to their love for her and their commitment to justice. No parent should ever have to endure what they have endured. I hope yesterday's decision brings them some measure of peace."

Senator Brock Smith reaffirmed his commitment to working with colleagues in the Legislature to ensure Oregon's laws prioritize victims and public safety.

“We must continue to strengthen our statutes to prevent this and other situations like this from arising in the future. Juvenile justice reform must never be used as a shield for individuals who commit predatory, violent crimes. I will continue to work with the Dwight family, Representative Osborne, and our legislative colleagues to bring the needed changes in legislation to ensure predatory child sexual homicide offenders like Wallace receive the full weight and harshest penalties of the justice system,” concluded Senator David Brock Smith.

To read Senator Brock Smith's Submitted Letter of Record in Opposition to Parole of Dustin Michael Wallace and Request of the Maximum Time Before Any Possible Future Hearing Request, please [CLICK HERE](#).

To read Senator Brock Smith's Submitted Oral Testimony, Please [CLICK HERE](#).

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Senator David Brock Smith represents Senate District 1, which includes Curry, Coos and Douglas Counties, Southwest Oregon's Fish, Farm & Forestry District. This press release and an archive of previous press releases issued by Senator David Brock Smith's office are available on the web at: www.oregonlegislature.gov/smithd