



Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force

TESTIMONY in Support of HB 5516
Submitted to the Committee on Ways and Means,
Subcommittee on Public Safety
Submitted by: Michele Roland-Schwartz, Executive Director

March 30, 2015

Dear Representative Williamson, Senator Shields, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Public Safety,

My name is Michele Roland-Schwartz and I am the Executive Director of the *Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force (SATF)*. SATF is a private, non-profit, non-governmental statewide agency whose mission is to *facilitate and support a victim-centered approach to the prevention of and response to adolescent and adult sexual violence through multi-disciplinary collaboration*. Comprised of over 100 Oregonians appointed by Attorney General Rosenblum, members serve on 1 of 8 multi-disciplinary subcommittees¹ and provide statewide leadership through the development of best practice guidance documents, training materials and resources to ensure that victims of sexual assault have access to highly trained and skilled responders.

The SATF supports passage of HB 5516, specifically funding for Oregon Department of Justice Crime Victim Services Division (CVSD). CVSD provides life-saving support to victims of crime through financial assistance that addresses their medical, safety, and ongoing mental health needs, and mitigates long-term trauma. This funding serves as an important safety net for victims of violent crime who would otherwise be overwhelmed by the financial burden of their victimization.

SATF is particularly concerned about victims of sexual assault in Oregon, where 1 in 4 women will experience sexual assault and 1 in 5 men will experience some form of sexual violence in their lifetime.² Funds support victims of sexual assault by covering the costs of a sexual assault medical-forensic exam, as well as access to victim advocacy provided by community-based nonprofits, District Attorney Victim Assistance Program advocates, and Tribal services who assist with emergency shelter, safety planning, and counseling.

¹ SATF subcommittees: Campus Subcommittee, Criminal Justice Subcommittee, Legislative & Public Policy Subcommittee, Medical-Forensic Subcommittee, Men's Engagement Subcommittee, Prevention & Education Subcommittee, Sex Offender Management Subcommittee, Victim Response Subcommittee. Co-chairs from each subcommittee make up the SATF Steering Committee that review and approve all position papers, guidance documents, and membership applications.

² National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS), 2011

CVSD's state discretionary grant supports the SATF Sexual Assault Training Institute (SATI). SATI provides victim-centered and trauma-informed training and technical assistance for Oregon's law enforcement, prosecutors, sexual assault nurse examiners, victim advocates, sexual assault response teams, Tribal sexual assault response and resource circles, and campus practitioners; SATF staff and our faculty of 20 multi-disciplinary instructors provide training and technical assistance.

CVSD state grant funds support our Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program, which provides a *40-hour Adult/Adolescent Sexual Assault Patient SANE training* twice a year. Our curriculum meets the *International Association of Forensic Nursing* education standards and readies medical providers to conduct a medical-forensic exam for acute cases of sexual assault, ensuring that victims have access to comprehensive, specialized healthcare, while also preserving forensic evidence and documentation of injuries. CVSD funds support the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Certification Commission¹, which SATF convenes to oversee certification of trained SANE's across the state. Oregon currently has 136 certified SANEs and even more working toward their certification – a critical step toward elevating the level of high quality care offered to victims in our state.

Most recently the Task Force and our membership developed a website to support students enrolled in Oregon's institutions of higher education. The Campus Reporting Options² website offers confidential information to students about their options, on and off campus, about the reporting and support options available to them following a sexual assault. Since the site went live in November of 2014, we've received 2100 page views, and have received national attention as other state's look to replicate the website. The page, spearheaded by our Campus subcommittee, with technical expertise from our Medical-Forensic, Criminal Justice, and Victim Response subcommittees, is one example of how our multi-disciplinary efforts benefits survivors across Oregon.

We believe that HB 5516 will positively impact victims of crime through the appropriation of general funds to the Oregon Department of Justice, Crime Victim Services Division, and are proud to be here today with our partners to support its passage.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Respectfully submitted,



Michele Roland-Schwartz
Executive Director

¹ The Oregon SAE/SANE Certification Commission approves SANE certification of NP and RN practicing in Oregon. The commission is multidisciplinary, with leadership from OSBN, ONA, ACEP, physicians, OSP Forensic Crime Lab, Victim Advocacy, and Law Enforcement/Prosecution.

² campus.oregonsatf.org