



To: Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

From: Kevin Campbell, Executive Director
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police &
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Date: March 22, 2017

Re: Support for SB 795

Chair Prozanski and members of the committee, for the record, my name is Kevin Campbell and I am here today on behalf of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association in support of SB 795.

In cases of sexual assault and with the trauma victims experience, we strongly believe that collaboration and coordination between medical assessment providers, law enforcement and victim advocates is critically important in order to insure that the needs of the victim of sexual assault are prioritized. The provisions of SB 795 are designed to insure that law enforcement and medical assessment providers prioritize involving victim advocates at the earliest possible moment when a victim of sexual assault is seeking medical attention. In Oregon, victim advocates may include the DA Victim Assistance Program Advocate, the Community-Based Non-Profit Advocate, or a Tribal Advocate. While each community may differ in the resources available to victims, we support a collaborative approach to developing and supporting protocols and procedures developed by local Sexual Assault Response Teams and county multidisciplinary child abuse teams.

While the priority is care for the victim, we also believe that providing victims with advocacy services results in other important benefits to the victim and the process including.

- Victims are more likely to engage in the criminal justice process when their needs are met.
- Robust advocacy response during medical-forensic exams is cited to reduce the risk for future backlogs.
- Victim advocacy during the medical-forensic exam mitigates trauma, and links survivors to critical services including housing, counseling, and other safety measures.
- Passage of the bill would allow victims to make an informed choice about the kind of care they receive during a medical-forensic exam.

Ensuring a victim advocate is present during a medical-forensic exam is considered best practice nationally (National Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Exams, Adult/Adolescents) and we support SB 795.