



Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force

Testimony in support of HB5015

Ways and Means Public Safety Subcommittee

Submitted by: Michele Roland-Schwartz, Executive Director

April 6, 2017

Co-chair Winters and Stark and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force, I am pleased to express support for the Oregon Department of Justice budget and the work of the Crime Victims' Services Division (CVSD). CVSD provides exemplary leadership to reduce the impact of crime on victims' lives by supporting statewide victim services programs, promote victims' rights, and provide victims access to information in a compassionate, responsive, and dedicated manner.

While there are many components of CVSD that positively impact victims of sexual assault, our attention will focus on two critical areas supported by CVSD – the work of the **Sexual Assault Task Force (SATF)** and the **Sexual Assault Victims' Emergency Medical Response (SAVE) Fund**.

SATF is a private, non-profit, non-governmental statewide agency whose mission is to advance a multi-disciplinary, survivor-centered approach to the prevention of and response to sexual violence. Formed in 1999 by the late Attorney General Hardy Myers, in collaboration with statewide leaders, SATF has a proud history of addressing sexual violence in Oregon. The spirit of SATF comes from our membership. Appointed by Attorney General Rosenblum, members serve on 1 of 8 subcommittees including: Campus, Criminal Justice, Legislative & Public Policy, Medical-Forensic, Men's Engagement, Offender Management, Prevention Education, and Victim Response.

SATF Program Highlights

1) **Sexual Assault Training Institute:** With 25 instructing faculty members, we provide sexual assault specific training and technical assistance to advocates, sexual assault nurse examiners, law enforcement, prosecutors, campus practitioners, and other responders. **Impact:** *By leveraging funding from DOJ, SATF was able to train 1,140 campus practitioners, resulting in a 138% increase in student survivors accessing services in a 12-month period, and a 120% increase in students deciding to participate in the Title IX adjudication and investigation process. Additionally, we provided 3,386 technical assistance calls and trained 80 sexual assault nurse examiners, 418 law enforcement officers, 26 prosecutors, and 243 advocates in 2016 alone¹.*

¹ Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force: 2016 Year In Review <http://oregonsatf.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/SATF-2016-infograph-final-updated.pdf>

2) **Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Certification Commission:** We provide technical assistance and support to Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners/Sexual Assault Examiners, clinics, and hospitals across the state of Oregon. The SANE Program provides administrative support to the Oregon SANE/SAE Certification Commission. **Impact:** *We have certified 36 Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners since January 2016.*

3) **Prevention Program:** The Prevention Program works to eliminate the root causes of sexual violence in order to stop sexual violence before it occurs. **Impact:** *In 2016 we trained over 247 preventionists and our Rape Prevention & Education (RPE) grantees worked with over 2,000 youth in Oregon, promoting healthy relationships.*

By leveraging DOJ funding in the amount of \$500,000/biennium, SATF has been able to bring nearly \$1.5 million/biennium of additional state, federal, and foundation funding to sexual assault specific work. All of this supports a more trauma-informed, survivor-centered response to sexual violence in Oregon, and has facilitated both a statewide and national reach, making Oregon a model for other states².


Sexual Assault Victims' Emergency Medical Response (SAVE) Fund

Oregon is second in the nation in rates of violence against women³, making access to comprehensive medical treatment, forensic evidence collection, and counseling services of critical importance. The SAVE Fund reduces barriers to services, mitigates the trauma experienced by a victim, and increases offender accountability when victims gain access to a Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence (SAFE) Kit.

The SAVE fund is a vital service for sexual assault victims that covers the cost of a sexual assault medical-forensic exam, medications, and counseling sessions, so that victims do not have to bear the financial burden of medical and counseling treatment after experiencing sexual trauma.

SATF encourages you to continue funding services that make a positive, lifesaving impact on victims of sexual violence. For this reason, we urge your full support of HB 5015

Respectfully submitted,


Michele Roland-Schwartz
Executive Director

² Our campus sexual assault work, funded in part by DOJ, has made Oregon a model for other states. In January we presented at the NASPA conference in Austin, Texas, to talk about Oregon's model for advocate privilege, thanks to the passage of HB3476 in 2015. We are working with New York and South Carolina to support their efforts to build a similar committee structure to support their campus sexual assault work. Additionally, our law enforcement training and technical assistance expertise allowed us to provide training not only to officers in Oregon, but to communities in Arizona and Iowa in 2016. We could not accomplish this work without the support of the Oregon Department of Justice, Crime Victims' Services Division.

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2011). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2010 Summary Report. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control.

https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/NISVS_Report2010-a.pdf