



JACKSON COUNTY
SART
SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM

2305 Ashland St., C-418 – Ashland, OR 97520 – jcsart@charter.net

Jackson County SART Supports SB766
May 18, 2021

Chair Bynum, Vice Chair Noble and Power, and Members of the Committee on House Judiciary,

On behalf of the Jackson County SART (Sexual Assault Response Team), based in Southern Oregon, I'm pleased to submit testimony in support of SB766.

Jackson County SART works to bring sexual assault survivors healing, justice and hope, to hold offenders accountable, and to help prevent sexual violence through community involvement and change.

Jackson County SART facilitates SAPOs for survivors (ages 15 and up) who access our Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners for a sexual assault forensic exam, attend our 3 support groups (including one for teens), and for survivors who contact our advocate or Resource Specialist. Our team provides information about protective orders so the survivor understands all aspects of the process and the result, including any unintentional negative/unsafe impacts such as the ones this bill will fix.

Just this month, I met with a survivor who was reporting extensive sexual abuse to police, and part of my meeting with them was explaining options for a SAPO if the offender was not going to be interviewed soon (the survivor is still deciding if they want to move forward, per our You Have Options program) – it would be wonderful to know that the current safety/privacy concerns would no longer be something we need to explain when a survivor is weighing the decision to file for a SAPO. The current procedures in place can present barriers for survivors in our community.

Jackson County SART is grateful to the legislature for establishing SAPOs for survivors who are ineligible for other orders of protection, and appreciates the passage of SB995 in 2019. Passing SB766 is a critical step in ensuring full implementation of SB955, helping to eliminate violations of privacy and increasing access to safety. For these reasons we urge your support of SB766.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Moen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Susan Moen
Executive Director, Jackson County SART
jcsart@charter.net, (541) 840-0904