



**House Committee on Judiciary
Support SB1574-1
February 4, 2022**

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

I am writing in support of **SB1574-1**, which is a fix to Oregon's Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence (SAFE) Kit Bill. Here in Tillamook County, Tides of Change advocates serve survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and trafficking.

SB 1574-1 will amend the statutory definition of Oregon's Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence (SAFE) Kit to include the copy of the medical forensic exam form. Survivors likely assume that the medical forensic form is always a part of the Kit, but a logistical flaw may prevent the form's inclusion by a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner/Sexual Assault Examiner (SANE/SAE) and it may be filed instead with medical records, which are preserved for 7-10 years in contrast to the 60 years SAFE kits are stored. The longer time period makes it possible for investigations to occur long after an assault occurs, an important benefit to survivors who decide later that they would like to have their case investigate. In addition, if the medical forensic exam form is not included in the SAFE Kit, evidentiary issues may arise when it is needed by the SANE/SAE for testimony preparation in a court case.

Elements of critical importance to survivors and advocates remain unchanged with SB-1574-1. Survivors will retain control of their stories and experiences with privacy and informed consent protections and will still have the option to make an anonymous report while receiving necessary medical care.

We who daily sit with survivors of sexual assault bring their voices to you today. We—and they—are deeply grateful for you, Oregon legislators who listen, and we ask you to show you hear them by supporting **SB1574-1**.

With gratitude,

Beth Hope

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