

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Andersen and Wallan, and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for your time and consideration. My name is Jordan Chandler, and I work as a basic-needs advocate for K-12 youth in Deschutes County. In my work, I know that one of the most impactful ways to support someone who has experienced trauma is to ensure that the survivor has access to robust support systems. **Today I request that you please support HB 4123.**

Every survivor of sexual assault deserves accessible, trauma-informed, skilled medical care in the wake of experiencing this particularly unique form of victimization. Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) are specifically trained to provide this essential healthcare for anyone who may need it, and in doing so, hold a pivotal role in improving safety, justice, and healing for survivors across Oregon. **That's why I support the creation of an ongoing, dedicated state funding source for the SANE Certification Commission (SCC).**

I urge you to support HB 4123 to ensure access to certified SANEs for survivors of sexual assault and professional support for Oregon's SANE workforce. Funding for HB 4123 provides stable foundational funding for the management of the SCC, whose duties include overseeing competency and standards of care for the provision of sexual assault forensic exams, reviewing and certifying new and renewal certification applications, and ensuring that SANE response is coordinated with other key partners in the response to sexual assault, including advocates, law enforcement, and prosecutors. Medical forensic exams conducted by SANEs not only meet essential medical needs for survivors, but are also critical in the evidence collection process for use in investigations and prosecutions of sexual assaults when a survivor chooses to report to law enforcement.

These issues are important to me because I want to ensure that every person who seeks care after experiencing violence is met with a compassionate, well-trained medical provider. Furthermore, I want the sexual assault nurse examiners and sexual assault examiners in our state to be supported not just at the time of initial licensure, but with high-quality, timely technical assistance as they continue to support survivors. Oregon SATF's proven track record of providing this support to SANEs over the past few decades is a critical element of ensuring that survivors have the best experience possible, often in moments of incredible crisis.

In closing, I am asking you to support survivors of sexual assault and the SANE workforce that cares for them by passing HB 4123. The current number of certified SANEs in Oregon is critically low, and investment in the SCC will support outreach and training to recruit and

certify new SANEs, while also supporting the existing workforce as they respond to the ongoing crisis of sexual assault in Oregon. **An investment in the SCC is an investment in healing and survivor-centered response services across our state.**

Sincerely,
Jordan Chandler (she/her)
Redmond, Oregon