

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 Terry Stewart, and I work with youth in central Oregon. Ensuring that the youth I serve and my neighbors have access to trauma-informed medical care is very important to me. **Because of this, 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 in so many instances, rural and frontier communities are often understaffed and underfunded when it comes to services for survivors of intimate partner violence.*** I want to ensure that survivors in my area are able to access care in a timely and safe manner from trained medical professionals. Oregon SATF has decades of experience providing training and support for rural SANEs, and I view the SCC as a critical resource to ensure that these services are continued in Deschutes county.

**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,  
Terry Stewart  
Deschutes County