

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

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).

In particular, as a SANE of Providence Health Services, 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.

I am survivor of sexual assault which occurred in 1987. In the 1980s, there was a lack of qualified healthcare professionals trained in trauma informed care to address the needs of "victims" of sexual assault. It was all about "victim blaming" meaning it was my fault although I repeatedly said, "No, Stop" and attempted to fight my way out of the situation. I didn't say anything to anyone about my experience, not my parents. I told a friend who said, "What do you want me to do about it." I didn't know where to turn for help.

Fast forward to 1998. I became a nurse and had a strong desire to help survivors of sexual assault again not knowing where to turn. Twenty-five years later, I was able to obtain the necessary training from Oregon SATF to become a SANE. In August 2023, I accepted a position with Medical-Forensic Services at Providence Health Systems. In a way, I envy our patients, the survivors who are able to seek medical care, advocacy aid and help from law enforcement, each specialty trained and working together to achieve the best outcome possible in the horrific circumstances. The care is provided in a trauma informed way which prevents revictimization. When I speak

with the survivors I have helped, I am amazed by the healing process they have begun, something I wasn't able to do for years after my experience. This is due to the excellent initial training and continued education necessary for us to do our job...to help others heal.

By passing HB 4123, you are ensuring the necessary funding to train people and provide continuing education to SANEs to be able to provide optimal care that survivors need in a much underserved population.

In closing, we are 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,

Kathryn Jubitz, BSN, RN, CNOR, OR-SANE
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