



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DATE: February 6, 2024

TO: Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Wallan,
and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Kimberly McCullough, Legislative Director
Oregon Department of Justice

SUBJECT: Support for HB 4123 – Attorney General’s Sexual Assault Task Force Funding

This testimony is presented in support of HB 4123, which will appropriate \$400k per biennium to the Attorney General’s Sexual Assault Task Force for its management of the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Certification Commission, including related outreach, membership oversight, training, technical assistance, competencies and standards, and multidisciplinary work with entities including law enforcement, hospitals and community-based victim services organizations.

Sexual Assault Task Force (SATF) was formed in 1999 by Attorney General Hardy Myers, in collaboration with statewide advocates, activists, and leaders. SATF’s work to address sexual violence in Oregon continues to be supported by Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum.

SATF is a private, non-profit, non-governmental statewide agency (501c-3 nonprofit), operating four programs and coordinating over 100 multi-disciplinary members who serve as advisors on the Task Force Advisory Committees: Advocacy Response, Campus, Criminal Justice, Legislative & Public Policy, Medical-Forensic, Men’s Engagement, Offender Management, and Prevention Education.

In organizing and maintaining a membership body, SATF seeks to facilitate cross-discipline collaboration and cultivate victim-centered approaches to sexual assault primary prevention, victim advocacy, medical forensic care, criminal prosecution and sex offender management and treatment.

They accomplish their mission by advancing primary prevention and providing multi-disciplinary training and technical assistance to responders in Oregon and nationally.

Additionally, SATF facilitates the SANE/SAE Certification Commission (Commission) for the purpose of approving the certification of registered nurse practitioners and nurses practicing in Oregon who fulfill the requirements to become Sexual Assault Examiners (SAE) and Sexual

Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE). The Commission and SATF staff invest a great deal of time training SANEs, conducting outreach to recruit more SANEs, and providing regular updates to keep SANEs apprised of best practices and policies. The Commission also has a 24-hour technical assistance line staffed by SANEs. This is the only place a SANE can seek assistance during an exam. The advice given from one SANE to another in these complex and sensitive situations is invaluable to both SANEs and the survivors they treat.

There is a need for SANEs across the state and particularly in rural communities. Completing and maintaining the SANE certification process can be especially difficult for folks outside the I5 corridor and the TA and training that comes from SATF is critical to helping shore up the number of SANEs that exist and who are willing to stay in the field. Even in a time when SANEs should easily be recognized as essential and critical patient care providers, they face a lot of challenges within their own institutions to carry out the work. SATF provides critical support with SANE partners and the facilities they work in or with.

It is crucial that the legislature make this needed investment in SATF's SANE Certification Commission and the work of gentle, knowledgeable and trauma informed care that SANEs in Oregon provide to victims of crime. We enthusiastically urge your support of HB 4123.