



2/7/2024

Re: HB 4123 Relating to the Sexual Assault Task Force

Dear Representative Kropf and House Interim Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Christina McGovney, the Program Director of Home Free with Volunteers of America Oregon in the Portland Metro region. Home Free, our domestic and sexual violence program, where we offer essential lifesaving services to our community. We focus on all sides of the issue of ending violence in our community through prevention education and confidential youth advocacy, to immediate crisis and safety situations to help survivors flee from violence and access safer motels or shelters, and housing programming and long-term stabilization supports which include economic empowerment programming. All our services are 100% free, voluntary, and confidential. We have several out stationed programs with advocates in Portland Public High Schools, advocates embedded within health clinics, and advocates operating out of the Multnomah County Courthouse. We have three hotlines: Our Emergency Services Hotline, our Restraining Order Hotline, and our Portland Public Schools hotline.

I am writing to day to show my support for a crucial house bill that support survivors of domestic violence, intimate partner violence, sexual violence, dating violence, stalking, and sex trafficking across our state. I support all the nonprofits in my community that do the critical lifesaving work helping survivors flee from abusive situations and rebuild their lives after experiencing physical violence, emotional and psychological abuse, economic abuse, spiritual abuse, coercion, reproductive coercion, and so much more. I encourage you to support HB 4123 which will provide stop-gap funding for the ongoing work of the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) / Sexual Assault Exam (SAE) Coordinating Council's work on statewide, interdisciplinary sexual assault response across. This work is especially jeopardized in rural areas, often resulting in victims of sexual assault driving hundreds of miles to reach qualified care.

Please support this bill that will ensure stability for the ongoing work of the SANE/SAE Coordinating Council's work, to support interdisciplinary trauma-informed and expert sexual assault response across the state. We'd like to see this bill be passed with a commitment to ongoing, stable funding as SANE work will continue to need support past this fiscal year.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christina McGovney".

Christina McGovney
Program Director
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Home Free
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**Restraining Order
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Home Free is the domestic and sexual violence program of Volunteers of America Oregon, serving survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Volunteers of America Oregon is an independent 501(c)(3) charitable organization registered within the state of Oregon that provides human services to populations in need.

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