



256 Warner Milne Road, Oregon City, OR 97045
(503) 655-8600 | www.cwsor.org

April 17, 2025

Re: SANE Certification Commission (SCC) Funding (HB 3070)

Co-Chairs Broadman and Evans, and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee On Public Safety,

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 on behalf of Clackamas Women's Services (CWS), we support the creation of HB 3070 to be included in the Department of Justice Budget to fund the SANE Certification Commission (SCC).**

The mission of Clackamas Women's Services (CWS) is to break the isolation of domestic and sexual violence. Incorporated in 1985 as Clackamas County's first domestic violence shelter, CWS is a community-based organization providing comprehensive services to survivors of domestic/dating violence, sexual assault, elder and vulnerable adult abuse, human trafficking, exploitation, and stalking.

In particular, we urge you to support HB 3070 to ensure access to certified SANEs for survivors of sexual assault and professional support for Oregon's SANE workforce. Funding for HB 3070 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.

In April 2024, CWS started a partnership with Providence Hospital to place advocates full-time in the emergency room—a first of its kind in Oregon. Since then, we have supported 75 survivors of domestic and sexual violence through some of the hardest moments that no one should experience. Our advocates work with SANE professionals every day and see the difference they make in a survivor's experience. The essential care and compassion they provide is vital to a survivor's well-being after an assault, as well as their ability to pursue justice should they choose.



clackamas women's services

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In closing, we are asking you to support survivors of sexual assault and the SANE workforce that cares for them by passing HB 3070. I also urge you to include a budget note that this funding be made current service level for future budgets in order to maintain baseline services and supports. 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,

Melissa Erlbaum
Executive Director