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## Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force

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### Testimony in support of HB5014 and Policy Option Package #311

#### Ways and Means Public Safety Subcommittee

Submitted by: Michele Roland-Schwartz, Executive Director

April 5, 2021

Sen. Gorsek, Rep. Sollmen, and members of the committee

On behalf of the Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force<sup>1</sup> (SATF), thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 5014 and more specifically, Policy Option Package #311, submitted by the Oregon Department of Justice's Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division (CVSSD).

CVSSD provides exemplary leadership to reduce the impact of crime on victims' lives by supporting statewide victim services programs, promoting victims' rights, and providing access to information in a compassionate, responsive, and dedicated manner.

CVSSD programs provide a critical foundation for victims seeking shelter, safety and support in escaping domestic or sexual violence. In addition to supporting the work of **SATF**, CVSSD programs also support the **Oregon Domestic & Sexual Violence Services Fund (ODSVS)**, the **Housing Navigator Program**, the **Address Confidentiality Program**, the **Crime Victim Compensation Program**, **DA-based Victim Assistance Funds**, the **AG's Domestic Violence Resource Prosecutor (DVRP)**, and **Statewide Elder Abuse Prosecutor**.

SATF has historically been funded through punitive damages. Due to tort reform, however, those funds are dwindling. To address this shortfall, CVSSD has submitted POP #311 to cover the expenses and services that victims and programs all over the state have relied upon but which can no longer be funded without General Fund support.

As a statewide non-profit, non-governmental agency formed in 1999, our mission is to advance a multi-disciplinary, survivor-centered approach to the prevention of and response to sexual violence in Oregon. Our goal is to prevent sexual violence from happening in the first place, while simultaneously improving our response efforts to mitigate trauma and ensure the safety and security of all survivors.

By leveraging DOJ funding in the amount of \$500,000/biennium, SATF has been able to bring approximately \$1.5 million/biennium of additional state, federal, and foundation dollars to sexual assault specific work. All of this supports a more trauma-informed, survivor-centered response to sexual violence in Oregon, and has facilitated both a statewide and national reach, making Oregon a model for other states.

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<sup>1</sup> SATF has a proud history of addressing sexual violence in Oregon, the spirit of which comes from our volunteer membership. Appointed by Attorney General Rosenblum, members serve on 1 of 8 subcommittees including: Advocacy Response, Campus, Criminal Justice, Legislative & Public Policy, Medical-Forensic, Men's Engagement, Offender Management, and Prevention Education.

Our mission is to improve the response to and prevention of sexual violence in Oregon through multi-disciplinary training, technical assistance, and policy advocacy.



**Sexual Assault Training Institute:** With 10 staff and 30+ instructing faculty members, we provide sexual assault specific training and technical assistance to a variety of disciplines including: advocacy, criminal justice responders, healthcare, education, and sex offense specific management and treatment.

**Impact:** *By leveraging funding from DOJ, SATF responds to approximately 10,000+ technical assistance requests annually, demonstrating a 250% increase in the last five years. We host annual SANE training to care for adult, adolescent and pediatric sexual assault patients, train all new officers at DPSST, and provide the only sexual assault specific training on trauma-informed investigation and prosecution techniques in Oregon.*



**Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Certification Commission:** We provide technical assistance and support to Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners/Sexual Assault Examiners, clinics, and hospitals across the state of Oregon. The SANE Program provides administrative support to the Oregon SANE/SAE Certification Commission.

**Impact:** We have significantly expanded our rural and frontier outreach to build SANE capacity and sustainability to Oregon. *Since 2014, we have experienced over 800% increase in technical assistance requests from healthcare providers, clinics, and hospitals. As a result of Oregon's investment in SANE practice, we are expanding our focus to include Forensic Nursing capacity in Oregon. See supplemental materials.*



**Campus Program:** We provide training, technical assistance, and support to Oregon's 2-year/4-year public and private institutions, addressing investigation, adjudication, advocacy response, and primary prevention efforts on Oregon's campuses.

**Impact:** Eight<sup>2</sup> campuses now receive funding from DOJ to build their full-time campus advocacy services. SATF supports campus advocacy programs with an on-line 40-hour advocacy training and technical assistance. In addition to our annual investigation and adjudication training, we provide state level leadership on primary prevention models to address all aspects of violence response and prevention on Oregon's campuses; in partnership with DOJ and TIX Education Specialists, we are expanding our training and technical assistance to support Oregon's K-12 school districts in their efforts to prevent and respond to interpersonal violence, harassment, and bullying by implementing training on Title IX, mandatory reporting, and prevention for K-12 administrators and other staff, in partnership with the Oregon Teachers Standards and Practices Commission, other statewide leaders, legislators, and select school districts.

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<sup>2</sup> Eastern Oregon University, Portland Community College, Portland State University, Oregon Health Sciences University, Willamette University, Western Oregon University, Southwestern Oregon Community College, Umpqua Community College.



**Prevention Program:** We work to eliminate the root causes of sexual violence in order to stop sexual violence before it occurs. Violence is not inevitable – it is preventable – and everyone plays a role in ending it.

**Impact:** By leveraging DOJ funds, and in partnership with Oregon Health Authority, we administer a Rape Prevention Education grant program to domestic and sexual violence advocacy programs, including culturally specific programs implementing violence prevention education in K-12 and community-specific programs.

Despite significant increases in the level of training and technical assistance we have experienced in the last 5 years, our staffing and funding levels have remained relatively static. We are grateful for the ongoing support of DOJ - in particular - their allocation of \$500,000/biennium to support our statewide infrastructure. The demand for our services and support, however, is significantly outpacing our current capacity.

It is critical we sustain and invest in the infrastructure and strong leadership of CVSSD to further our efforts to support survivors of harassment, abuse, and violence in Oregon. For this reason, we urge your full support of HB5014 and the Policy Option Package #311.

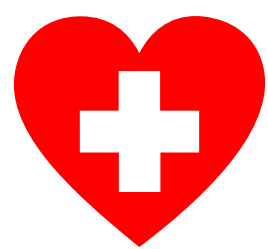
Respectfully submitted,

Michele Roland-Schwartz  
Executive Director



# Forensic Nursing in Oregon

## SATF SANE Program



Adapting 40-hour Adult/Adolescent SANE training to modified in-person/eLearning



Rural Regional Team Lead Pilot Project

- North Coast (Clatsop, Columbia, Lincoln, Tillamook)
- Eastern Oregon (Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur)



Oregon SANE/SAE Certification Commission



Medical Advocacy Training & TA

## Expanding Forensic Nursing in Oregon

40-hour Pediatric SANE Training

- Salem, Medford, Hermiston, Bend 2021-22



Tele-ECHO

Recorded Mock Exams

Expand eLearning options

Expand practice areas

## SANE TA Line



- 24/7 Statewide TA-Line
  - 503.990.5556
- North Coast (non-urgent)
  - 503.269.4176
- Eastern Oregon (non-urgent)
  - 503.562.0240

MICHELE@OREGONSATF.ORG

## New Training & Resources Available

Oregon Virtual Summit, Aug 2021

SANE Connect

Strangulation Forensic Evidence Kit

Model Transfer Policy

[www.oregonsatf.org](http://www.oregonsatf.org)