



**TO: Sen. Floyd Prozanski, Chair  
Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee**

**FR: Oregon District Attorneys Association**

**RE: SB 1574 -1 Amendment Support**

February 7, 2022

The Oregon District Attorneys Association is submitting this written testimony in support of the passage of SB 1574-1.

SB 1574-1 makes a common sense but important change to Oregon's Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence (SAFE) Kit Bill. The bill would amend the statutory definition of the SAFE Kit to include a copy of the medical forensic examination form. Survivors of sexual assault who seek care from a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) or Sexual Assault Examiner (SAE) assume that both evidence collected during the examination and any written documentation completed by either the SANE or SAE is automatically stored with the SAFE kit that is transferred to the possession of law enforcement pursuant to ORS 181A.325. However, a current logistical flaw may prevent some examiners from including a copy of the medical forensic examination form in the SAFE kit. This form contains critical information that may impact the outcome of any future criminal investigation or prosecution. Modifying the definition of SAFE kit to include this form will ensure that it is stored by law enforcement with the other evidence in the SAFE kit for 60 years.

As the prosecutors who work with the survivors of sex crimes and prosecute their abusers we support this important change to make sure that vital evidence is preserved and that the survivors of sex crimes can count on this evidence when and how they seek justice. Furthermore, this change would in no way impact a survivor's ability to make an anonymous report and still receive medical care or change their ability to determine what parts of the medical-forensic exam they consent to.

We would also like to thank the Sexual Assault Task Force for all their work on this important bill.