



February 4, 2022

Thank you for the opportunity to express Samaritan Health Services support for SB1574.

Samaritan Health Services (SHS) is a not-for-profit network of hospitals, clinics, and health services caring for more than 250,000 residents of the mid-Willamette Valley, central Oregon Coast, and rural communities in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties.

**Samaritan Health Services is pleased to support SB1574 which will ensure proper forensic medical care for sexual assault survivors** by making an important improvement to the definition of Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence (SAFE) kit. This change will help fix a logistics flaw that may prevent some sexual assault examiners from including a copy of the medical forensic exam form in the SAFE Kit. This form includes the survivor's sexual assault history, injury documentation, and evidence collection documentation, which could provide critical evidence if a case moves on to trial. With the passage of SB1574 all survivors will be able to have their forensic evidence collection and written documentation preserved **for if and when** they decide to make a report to law enforcement. This change will not impact the option for a survivor to make an anonymous report. Privacy and consent remain the same for all survivors; survivors discuss the parts of the medical forensic exam they will consent to with the sexual assault examiner before and during the exam, including what information is released to law enforcement.

Samaritan Health Services provides compassionate medical services for survivors of sexual assault at Sarah's Place. This is the first sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE) center in Oregon to provide a setting where sexual assault nurse examiners work with patients in a discreet environment separate from the emergency department. At Sarah's Place, most patients already assume that this chart is included in the SAFE Kit, and Samaritan Health Systems, as permitted currently includes SANE kit information in SAFE kits when given consent by the Survivor.

Samaritan Health and Sarah's Place strongly support that this process be standardized for all survivors, and **encourage your support of SB1574.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Bouska". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Bill Bouska, MPA  
Director Government Relations  
Samaritan Health Services