

# OREGON ATTORNEY GENERAL'S SEXUAL ASSAULT TASK FORCE



## SUPPORT HB 2002 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE MARCH 20, 2023

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chair Goodwin, Vice-Chair Nelson, and members of the committee:

Thank you for your time and consideration. On behalf of the Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force (Oregon SATF)<sup>1</sup>, **I am pleased to submit testimony in support of HB2002.**

*At the Oregon SATF, our mission is to facilitate and support a collaborative, survivor-centered approach to the prevention of and response to violence and abuse 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 victims and survivors.*

Reproductive health access, supports, and education are tantamount to the prevention of sexual violence and sexual abuse. When people have access to robust, comprehensive, reproductive health resources, this access: increases their likelihood of accessing support services if they are experiencing abuse; helps mitigate the impacts, and prevent future incidences, of intimate partner violence, reproductive coercion, and opportunities for power and control within relationships; and helps ensure people who have experienced sexual assault or abuse can access necessary care including trained, knowledgeable, medical professionals.

As outlined by OAR 137-084-0500, Oregon SATF facilitates the SANE/SAE Certification Commission for the purpose of approving the certification of registered nurse practitioners and nurses practicing in Oregon who fulfill the requirements to become Sexual Assault Examiners (SAE) and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE). It is the commission's mission to ensure that nurses and providers who provide sexual assault medical care and conduct forensic examinations in Oregon have the necessary training and qualifications to do so in accordance with the best standards of care using a victim-centered approach.

Our agency collaborates with, trains, and certifies sexual assault examiners (SANEs) across the state. Through their sexual assault support services, SANEs provide all of the components of reproductive health care outlined in HB 2002 (Section 2, #4). **Reproductive health care access is necessary for survivors of sexual assault and abuse, and we know that each day, sexual violence is impacting the lives of Oregonians.**

Over half of women, and almost 1 in 3 men, have experienced sexual violence involving physical contact during their lifetimes, with women of color, particularly Black and Indigenous women, experiencing disproportionate rates of violence. **It is critical that survivors have access to health services, preventative care, and resources to make the healthiest decisions for themselves.**

Sexual assault support services provided by a certified medical professional ARE reproductive health care. If we want survivors of abuse and violence to have access to meaningful support services, we need to support reproductive health care.

**If we want to prevent abuse and violence from happening in the first place, we need to ensure people have access to health services without barriers.**

**By supporting HB 2002, you are making Oregon safer for all people. For this reason, we urge your full support of HB 2002.**

Thank you for your time and consideration. We welcome any questions you may have.

Respectfully,



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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.