

February 5, 2024

Attn: Members of the House Judiciary Committee

RE: Support House Bill 4123 / Funding for SANE Certification Commission

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Andersen and Wallan, and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

Thank you so much for taking the time to read my testimony today. My name is Carli Rohner, and for nearly two decades, I have served as a violence prevention specialist, survivor advocate, and policy specialist. **Today, I write to request that you please support HB 4123.**

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 I support the creation of an ongoing, dedicated state funding source for the SANE Certification Commission (SCC).**

I urge you to support HB 4123 to ensure access to certified SANEs for survivors of sexual assault and professional support for Oregon's SANE workforce.

Funding for HB 4123 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.

As a violence prevention specialist, I know that communities engage with and trust prevention efforts more when survivors in their communities are believed, valued, and cared for. By investing in the SANE Certification Commission, you are demonstrating that this vital service is important to our state leaders, and that you, as our legislature,

value survivor care and well-being. Every time you make a choice to invest in sexual violence response efforts, like the SANE Certification Commission, you are choosing to invest in survivors and prevention efforts as well. These efforts are inextricably linked.

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.**

In closing, I am asking you to support survivors of sexual assault and the SANE workforce that cares for them by passing HB 4123.

Thank you again for your time and consideration. Please feel welcome to contact me if you have any follow-up questions regarding my testimony, I welcome the opportunity to discuss this important matter with you.

Sincerely,
Carli Rohner (she/her)
Salem, Oregon