

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

Every person deserves accessible, trauma-informed, skilled medical care in the wake of experiencing sexual violence, and effective response services make our communities safer and protect against further acts of violence and abuse. For these reasons, investing in the infrastructure to support Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) who 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, **is why I support the creation of an ongoing, dedicated state funding source for the SANE Certification Commission (SCC).**

In particular, as someone who has observed the impact of sexual violence for friends, family members, young people, and more, **I urge you to support HB 4123** to ensure access to certified SANEs for people who experience sexual violence and abuse, 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.

**Please support survivors of sexual violence and abuse, as well as SANEs working across Oregon to ensure people get the right care, by passing HB 4123.** 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 violence and abuse in Oregon. **An investment in the SCC is an investment in healing and survivor-centered response services across our state.**

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Megan Foster', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Megan Foster  
Salem, OR