



February 6, 2024

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

From: Emerson Hamlin, Political Organizer, Oregon Nurses Association

Re: Support for HB 4123

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Anderson and Wallan, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association. The Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) is a professional association and labor union representing over 17,000 nurses and healthcare professionals across Oregon. Our members work in urban and rural hospitals, clinics, school-based health centers, home health, and county health departments.

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE nurses) provide supportive and sensitive care for patients who have just experienced sexual assault. While treating patients, they gather evidence for rape kits and testify in court about the survivor's injuries. Research shows SANEs provide high quality care: they take patient concerns seriously, they believe and respect patients, and they provide useful follow-up information.¹ They are also valuable within our justice system: SANE nurses made it more likely that adult sexual assault cases were investigated and prosecuted.² SANE nurses provide high quality health care and are important allies within the justice system.

In Oregon, SANE nurses are licensed, trained, and supported by the SANE Certification Commission. With adequate and stable funding, the Commission will be able to support a full-time coordinator, who will lead the Commission and the SANE nurses they support. ONA urges a yes vote. Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Emerson Hamlin

¹ Lechner, Megan, et al. "Perceived care quality among women receiving sexual assault nurse examiner care: Results from a 1-week postexamination survey in a large multisite prospective study." *Journal of Emergency Nursing*, vol. 47, no. 3, May 2021, pp. 449–458, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jen.2020.11.011>.

² Campbell, Rebecca, et al. *Systems Change Analysis of SANE Programs: Identifying the Mediating ...*, Jan. 2009, www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/226497.pdf.