

Submitter: Theresa Muncy
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB4123

Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Anderson and Wallen, and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I have proudly served as an Oregon-certified Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) for 5 years. The purpose of my testimony is to illustrate the vital role that SANEs play in our state's healthcare system and communities.

SANEs spend extensive one-on-one time with patients, identifying and addressing the complex needs that arise after surviving sexual violence. We're trained to provide evidence-based medical care, including a thorough head-to-toe assessment, care for injuries, and medications to prevent long-term impacts of sexual assault such as sexually transmitted illnesses and pregnancy.

We're well-versed in safety resources and know how to connect our patients with advocacy and police. We're proficient in forensic documentation and evidence collection, contributing to our patients' pursuit of justice. We're fluent in trauma-informed care, creating a safe space for survivors to relive what happened to them at their own pace. It is here, within this supportive environment, that healing begins.

All survivors deserve the comprehensive care a certified SANE can offer, but unfortunately there are barely 100 of us in the entire state and only 13 of us work in rural areas. If a SANE isn't available where a patient lives, they may have to drive hundreds of miles to find one. They may receive sub-standard, rushed care or worse: they may not seek care at all.

We must immediately address our critical shortage of certified SANEs.

My practice was built on the education I received by Oregon SATF, and my skills have been validated against the high standard set by the SCC. House Bill 4123 would secure funding for the SCC, helping us recruit new SANEs and support them in attaining their Oregon certification.

I ask you to support this bill to ensure every nurse who chooses to do this crucial work has the support they need to do it skillfully, so every survivor in Oregon receives expert care, every time, no matter where they live.

Thank you for your consideration,
Theresa Muncy, BSN, RN, SANE-A, OR-SANE