



clackamas women's services

256 Warner Milne Road, Oregon City, OR 97045
(503) 655-8600 | www.cwsor.org

February 6, 2025

Re: Support for training and access to medical forensic care for survivors of sexual assault (HB 3070)

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

On behalf of Clackamas Women's Services (CWS), we are pleased to submit testimony in support of HB 3070 which appropriates funding to the Department of Justice for training and access to medical forensic care for survivors of sexual assault.

The mission of Clackamas Women's Services (CWS) is to break the isolation of domestic and sexual violence. Incorporated in 1985 as Clackamas County's first domestic violence shelter, CWS is a community-based organization providing comprehensive to survivors of domestic/dating violence, sexual assault, elder and vulnerable adult abuse, human trafficking, exploitation, and stalking.

There is a great need for more Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) and Sexual Assault Examiners (SAEs) in Oregon. SANEs/SAEs are specially trained to understand the dynamics of sexual assault, the unique healthcare needs of sexual assault victims, and proper collection of forensic evidence that may be used by law enforcement in sexual assault investigations. **Competent and qualified SANEs/SAEs are a critical component of healing and justice for many survivors of sexual assault.**

This need is particularly acute in rural areas where survivors face driving hours for an examination, which is not always feasible or possible. There are currently 17 counties in Oregon with no certified SANEs/SAEs at all. Expedited access to care and forensic exams is critical. To preserve evidence a survivor may be asked to refrain from things like taking a shower or eating something, to that end it is imperative that wait times are low and access is readily available.

In closing, an ongoing appropriation of \$400k per biennium for the SANE Certification Commission will support recruiting, training, and helping new SANEs/SAEs achieve certification requirements to ensure all survivors have access to competent, compassionate medical care, and provide sexual assault victims with the care they deserve.

For the above reasons, we urge you to support the passage of HB 3070. Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Melissa Erlbaum
Executive Director