

Submitter: Meira Pomegranate
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3070

My name is Meira Pomegranate, and I serve as the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Coordinator for the Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 3070, which is critical to ensuring that survivors of sexual assault have access to safe, effective, and, trauma-informed medical & forensic care.

SANEs provide a specialized and essential service—offering expert medical care, collecting forensic evidence, and helping survivors navigate their advocacy and legal options. This work leads to better health outcomes, stronger investigations, and improved prosecutorial success.

Despite the urgent need for these services, many survivors in our state are left without access to care. National data indicates that over 40% of women in Oregon experience sexual violence in their lifetime. At the same time, 17 of Oregon's 36 counties currently have no certified Sexual Assault Examiners, leaving more than 1.4 million Oregonians—over one-third of our state's population—without access to this essential care in their own communities.

Survivors in these regions face devastating and unacceptable gaps to receiving timely, safe, and quality healthcare. They experience significant delays (or an absence of) care altogether, preventable retraumatization, and lost opportunities for forensic evidence collection—all of which impact their health, recovery and legal options. We cannot continue to allow geography to determine whether a survivor receives appropriate medical care.

The SANE Certification Commission (SCC) is the only body in Oregon responsible for overseeing SANE certification and competency. It is composed of multidisciplinary experts, from medical, law enforcement, advocacy, and more- who are appointed to ensure anyone who has experienced sexual assault has access to the best possible care and response. For more than two decades, this commission has supported, educated, and certified hundreds of medical providers across the state, who, in turn, deliver care in their local communities. But without stable funding, we cannot sustain—let alone expand—this critical workforce.

With this funding, we can continue to take critical steps forward.

We can expand rural outreach, closing gaps where trained SANEs are scarce or nonexistent.

We can invest in our providers, ensuring that those who want to become SANEs receive the support they need to complete certification and stay in the field.

And we can grow Oregon's SANE workforce, so that every survivor, in every community—has access to expert medical forensic care.

HB 3070 helps to ensure that Oregon's response to sexual violence is not just well-intentioned, but functionally resourced. By passing this bill, you are making a clear

commitment: that every survivor—no matter where they live—deserves compassionate, expert medical care. I urge you to vote YES on HB 3070 to sustain and expand these vital services. Thank you for your time.