

Submitter: Regina Mysliwec
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3070

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

Every survivor of sexual assault deserves accessible, trauma-informed, skilled medical care in the wake of experiencing this particularly unique form of victimization. Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) 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. That's why I support the creation of an ongoing, dedicated state funding source for the SANE Certification Commission (SCC).

In particular, as an emergency physician serving a rural community for the last 10 years, I am often responsible for providing medical care to victims of rape and sexual assault. The emergency department is a chaotic and sometimes terrifying place for someone who has just been made violently helpless against their will. I cannot provide all the care sexual assault victims need on my own. SANEs are experts in evaluating these victims and advocating that they receive up to date medical treatment. Unlike SANEs, emergency physicians are not specifically required to maintain up to date knowledge of the standard of care for management of sexual assault victims. Access to SANEs in my community improves the quality of care my patients receive and keeps my patients safer and healthier.

I urge you to support HB 3070 to ensure access to certified SANEs for survivors of sexual assault and professional support for Oregon's SANE workforce. Funding for HB 3070 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.

These issues are important to me because my patient population made up of my friends, my neighbors, and their children. Sexual assault affects every social class, every neighborhood, every family. And the stigma associated with this trauma leaves people alone. The few who do seek help deserve trained professionals with the

necessary experience to guide their care.

I am asking you to support survivors of sexual assault and the SANE workforce that cares for them by passing HB 3070. 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 assault in Oregon. An investment in the SCC is an investment in healing and survivor-centered response services across our state.

Sincerely,

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