

Submitter: Meira Pomegranate
On Behalf Of: HB 3070 SANE Certification Commission
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Public Safety
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5014

Dear Chairs, Vice-Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

Every survivor of sexual assault deserves access to compassionate, trauma-informed, and skilled medical care. Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) are uniquely trained to provide this specialized care, and their presence is essential to ensuring that survivors receive not only appropriate medical treatment, but also access to timely evidence collection should they choose to engage with the legal system.

As a nurse for over a decade practicing in Oregon, I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3070, which would provide dedicated funding for Oregon's SANE Certification Commission (SCC). The SCC plays a critical role in upholding standards of care, reviewing certification applications, and ensuring the statewide coordination of sexual assault medical-forensic response. Without sustained funding, this vital infrastructure is at risk.

The issues addressed by this bill matter deeply to me. In my professional experience, I've seen firsthand how access to a well-trained, certified SANE can change the trajectory of care for someone who has experienced sexual violence. I've also seen how difficult it is to maintain and grow this workforce, particularly in rural and underserved areas. The SCC helps bridge that gap by supporting clinicians, promoting best practices, and providing consistency in certification and quality assurance processes.

We are at a critical juncture. The number of certified SANEs in Oregon remains dangerously low, and many communities do not have consistent access to trained examiners. HB 3070 represents a meaningful step toward addressing that disparity. It ensures the continuity of a certification body that has already laid the groundwork for a statewide system of accountability and support- and it signals that Oregon values survivors and those who care for them.

I urge you not only to support HB 3070 but to include a budget note ensuring this funding is recognized at the current service level in future state budgets. This is about more than dollars- it's about building a system where survivors are met with dignity, skilled care, and real choices.

Thank you for your attention and commitment to survivor-centered care in Oregon.

Sincerely,
Meira Pomegranate
Registered Nurse, Oregon
Eugene, Lane County