

JANEEN SOLLMAN
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 15



OREGON STATE SENATE

Date: April 22, 2025

TO: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

RE: Support for SB 536

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Javadi and Nelson, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support for Senate Bill 536, a bill that allows a licensed physician, physician associate, or nurse practitioner to be a medical examiner, and requires physicians who serve as medical examiners to be licensed.

I am advocating for this legislation based on my direct experience as former Co-Chair of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety, where I became acutely aware of the critical shortage of medical examiners statewide and the resulting case backlog. House Bill 4003 in the 2024 session, directed the Oregon State Police to study the causes and ways to address the shortage of medical examiners within Oregon and issue a report to the legislature. Their investigation revealed that Oregon's Medical Examiners currently manage caseloads at twice the nationally recommended standard.

The proposed expansion authorizing nurse practitioners and physician associates to perform these essential services would provide a valuable mechanism to address the existing backlog. These professionals represent highly qualified members of our healthcare workforce and would constitute a significant resource in mitigating Oregon's medical examiner shortage.

Colleagues, I respectfully urge your support for Senate Bill 536. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Janeen Sollman'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Janeen Sollman
Senate District 15