



Testimony on S.95
An act related to sexual assault nurse examiners
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this legislation. The Center supports the current proposal to re-configure and modernize the SANE Board.

The Center” was established by the Legislature in 1991 to:

- Strengthen and coordinate programs serving crime victims
- Promote the rights and needs of crime victims statewide
- Administer federal and state funds for crime victim services
- Serve as a clearinghouse for information regarding crime victims

The Center is administered by the Victims Compensation Board, appointed by the Governor, and is led by new Executive Director, Chris Fenno.

The Center administers the Vermont Sexual Assault Program, which ensures that adults and children who experience sexual assault have access to sexual assault nurse examinations (“SANE,” formerly known as the “rape kit”) to gather evidence while assessing and treating injuries, all at no cost to them, regardless of whether they choose to report the crime. This program also provides financial assistance for psychological counseling and other medical costs resulting from their experience of victimization.

The Center also provides grant funds to the Vermont Network to support the cost of staffing the SANE Board and has increased the grant award to allow for a full-time, as opposed to part-time, coordinator. Currently, the Network receives a federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant, although given the current federal climate, flexibility in type of funding stream used to support this position is essential.