



Testimony on S.95
Senate Committee on Health and Welfare
March 16, 2017

Chris Fenno
Executive Director
Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services

Thank you for the opportunity to testify about this legislation before your Committee. The Center supports this legislation as presented today with the Networks changes.

SANE Program

This bill will help ensure critical access to examinations for rape victims. In addition, it will revise SANE board to an advising role for the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners Program.

Board

The board will have representation from the health and victim services fields and will be tasked with advisory duties. The board will set priorities, training and educational requirements, protocols and policy development related to the SANE program. Having this focus will allow Vermont to continue providing leadership for this important program.

Clinical Coordinator

The Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services currently provides funding to the SANE Program Clinical Coordinator position. This position is supported using federal funding. It is our intent to continue funding this position as grant dollars allow. This bill would require the position to be either funded through the Center or through other identified state funding options. Because the federal funding is questionable year-to-year, this change would ensure the position be funded either by the Center or through some other identified state funding.

Study Committee: Evidence Kits

The State of Vermont needs to study the current practices for the collection of kits, storage, issues with transport and potential alternative methods. This is a short-lived committee that will provide guidance that will help ensure the best practice for the tracking and collection of sexual assault kits. This study will give assurance to victims that their evidence will be protected and easily available should it be needed in the future.

The Center supports S.95 as amended.