

03/31/2022

To the Senate Judiciary Committee:

We write to you today in support of Senate File 3317, a bill creating a single payor system for sexual assault examinations in the state of Minnesota.

Currently, Minnesota is one of only a handful of states that bills and pays for sexual assault examinations on a county-by-county basis. This system creates a chaotic atmosphere for sexual assault survivors, hospitals, sheriff's departments, and insurers.

SF 3317 is an important step forward in ensuring victims of sexual assault are not charged for medical examinations. By creating a single payor system housed at the state, there will no longer be confusion around who is obligated to pay for a sexual assault exam, nor the current situation where victims are sometimes mistakenly billed for health care services in the wake of a sexual assault.

Creating a single payor system removes the onus from each county and situates the responsibility for these exams in one state office. This solution is a benefit to all involved. Survivors are assured they will not be billed for much-needed forensic medical care. County payors are not put into the position to scramble to balance their operating budgets. Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Programs and other health care providers are not struggling to maintain their services. With the implementation of a single payor system, every stakeholder wins thanks to the efficiency of locating payments for these services in one state office.

This proposal builds upon the precedent of the other initiatives that have been implemented since the State of Minnesota was awarded a Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) grant in 2019. In the spirit of this award, we continue to strive toward making reporting sexual assault as victim-centered as possible. SF 3317 is another step toward justice and care for sexual assault survivors across the state.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions you may have about this proposal.

All the best,

Em Westerlund  
Statewide Medical Forensic Policy & Program Coordinator  
MNCASA – Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
[ewesterlund@mncasa.org](mailto:ewesterlund@mncasa.org)

Linda Walther, RN, SANE-A, SANE-P  
Statewide Medical Forensic Policy & Program – SANE Contractor  
MNCASA – Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
[lwalth@mnaca.org](mailto:lwalth@mnaca.org)