

November 20, 2013

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Boxer:

We, the undersigned organizations, are pleased to support your amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which seeks to ensure forensic evidence is properly collected by the military and that trained personnel address the physiological and psychological needs of sexual assault victims.

The U.S. House of Representatives enacted a provision in its version of the NDAA to address the availability of sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE) personnel to treat victims of sexual assault in the military. The Boxer Amendment builds on the House passed provision to:

- Establish appropriate training requirements for personnel performing sexual assault examinations;
- Ensure availability of SANE personnel at every military treatment facility where feasible, including at contingency locations and on naval vessels of appropriate size;
- Establish a goal that victims receive a sexual assault exam by a trained provider within a 24-hour period; and
- Ensure the Coast Guard is covered along with other military branches.

Training Requirements

No consistency in the training standards for personnel performing forensic exams on assault victims exists within the military today. Your amendment will establish clear guidance across the military branches for training of forensic nurses and other professionals seeking to address the forensic needs of sexual assault victims.

Each training and certification program would be conducted by qualified personnel who possess a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) certification or from someone who's training and clinical or forensic experience in sexual assault forensic examinations similar to that required for a SANE; require a minimum of 40 hours of coursework for participants in sexual assault forensic examinations of adults and adolescents; include ongoing examinations and evaluations on sexual assault forensic examinations; and require clinical mentoring and continuing education.

Availability of Trained Personnel

No consistency in the availability of trained forensic nurses and other similar personnel exists in the military today. Your amendment will ensure the availability

of an adequate number of SANEs for the Armed Forces by requiring at least one sexual assault forensic examiner at each military medical treatment facility under the jurisdiction of such Secretary, whether in the United States or overseas. In the event this standard is infeasible or impracticable, the Secretary may enter into agreements with facilities, whether governmental or otherwise, with appropriate resources for the provision of sexual assault forensic examinations, for the provision of sexual assault forensic examinations for the Armed Forces. These requirements will apply to naval vessels having a regular complement of more than 100 personnel as well.

Finally, we appreciate your efforts to ensure rapid response to reports of sexual assault and for including the Coast Guard with the other military branches in your amendment. Please contact Patrick Cooney at 202-347-0034 x101 or via email at Patrick@federalgrp.com if you have any questions regarding this issue.

Sincerely,

**American Academy of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Nurses Association
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Infusion Nurses Society
International Association of Forensic Nurses
International Society of Psychiatric Nursing
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National League for Nursing
National Nursing Centers Consortium**