

## Testimony in Support of LD 117

### Submitted to the Health & Human Services Committee

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Director, *Healing Waters: Broken to Beautiful*

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### Chair Duson, Representative Carlow, and members of the Health & Human Services Committee:

The question before us today is straightforward:

**Why does LD 117—An Act to Provide Funding for Sexual Assault Services—truly meet the needs of victims?**

The answer is simple: **Survivors need access, resources, and action.**

### LD 117 Is a Start—But More Is Needed

This bill funds advocacy services—a necessary first step—but it is just that: **a start**. There are **other critical bills** before this legislature that also demand attention.

- **One addresses untested rape kits**—because what good is evidence if it sits untouched?
- **Another tackles access to trauma-informed medical and legal services**—because survivors should not be left navigating a system that was never built with them in mind.

But these bills won’t move forward **without action from leadership on both sides of the aisle.**

### The Real Problem: A Broken System

LD 117 and related bills expose a deeper issue: **why does partisan gridlock prevent elected leaders from working effectively?**

- Why are critical survivor protections treated as political battlegrounds?
- Why are common-sense solutions stalling while survivors are left waiting?

This is something I am **inquiring into**.

As a private citizen and an advocate, I am seeking answers about:

- **Why EMS providers and ER staff lack consistent trauma-informed training.**
- **Why tracking systems for sexual assault cases remain disjointed.**
- **Why bipartisan collaboration on these issues remains elusive.**

These questions **must be addressed** if we are to move forward in a meaningful way.

## A Walk in a Survivor's Shoes

To understand why this matters, I ask you to **pause and close your eyes.**

Imagine waking up in an unfamiliar place. Your body aches. Your mind is foggy. Fragments of memories—hands pinning you down, your voice screaming—flash through your head. You reach for your phone, but hesitate. **Who will believe you?**

You summon the courage to report. **But then comes the system.**

You sit in an exam room while a rape kit is collected—**but no one can promise it will be tested.** You tell your story to officers who seem skeptical. You wait weeks for a callback that never comes. **You are left alone.**

This bill changes that.

## This is the Right Answer

Mariska Hargitay once said:

*"Healing is not a straight line. You don't wake up one day and say, 'I'm over it.' It takes time, it takes work, it takes support. But most of all, it takes your voice."*

**LD 117 ensures survivors are heard.** It provides access, resources, and action.

President John F. Kennedy said: *It is not about the Republican or Democratic answer—it is about the right answer.*

**LD 117 is the right answer.**

Survivors are waiting. Your support for this bill sends a clear, united message:

**"We hear you."**

- **Nous vous entendons.** (*French*)
- **Te escuchamos.** (*Spanish*)
- **Vi sentiamo.** (*Italian*)
- (*And if I were there today, I would sign it in ASL as well.*)

## A Personal Note

An unforeseen complication prevented me from testifying live today, but I want to be clear: **I will be back to testify again.**

I look forward to working with leaders **on both sides of the aisle** to develop **long-term solutions** for survivors. This is not a partisan issue—it is a human one.

Thank you for your time. I urge you to **stand with us and pass LD 117.**

Sincerely,

**Danielle “Danni” Stubenrod**

Director, *Healing Waters: Broken to Beautiful*

Danni Stubenrod  
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LD 117

My current legal name is Deril Stubenrod. I am a transgender woman and also a rape survivor and I am working on changing my legal name to Danielle Stubenrod