

March 05, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
Senate Office Building

**RE: Support – SB 0950 Sexual Assault Forensic Examinations Conducted Through Telehealth-Reimbursement and Study**

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members,

I am a nurse practitioner serving as the Clinical Director of the Forensic Medical Unit at Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center and a member of the Maryland Sexual Assault Evidence Kit Policy and Funding Committee. One reason Marylanders experience barriers to accessing sexual assault medical forensic examinations (SAMFEs) is a shortage of forensic nurse examiners to provide care.<sup>1</sup> Telehealth (including providing SAMFEs) is a growing method employed to increase access to direct patient care and professional mentorship to support less experienced clinicians.<sup>2</sup>

Telehealth is a promising option for increasing SAMFE access in Maryland. However, a feasibility study aimed at examining the unique needs of the community and a description of the infrastructure necessary for the successful development and implementation of a Maryland TeleSAFE Pilot is essential to ensuring Marylanders receive world-class quality medical care after sexual assault.

For these reasons, I ask for a favorable report for Maryland SB 0950.

Respectfully,



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Clinical Director of Forensics, Forensic Medical Unit



## References

1. Maryland Sexual Assault Evidence Policy and Funding Committee. *SAEK Committee 2024 Sixth Annual Report*. 2024.  
[https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Pages/Groups/2024\\_SAEK\\_Committee\\_Annual\\_Report.pdf](https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Pages/Groups/2024_SAEK_Committee_Annual_Report.pdf)
2. Miyamoto S, Thiede E, Dorn L, Perkins DF, Bittner C, Scanlon D. The Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Telehealth (SAFE-T) Center: A Comprehensive, Nurse-led Telehealth Model to Address Disparities in Sexual Assault Care. *The Journal of Rural Health*. 2021;37(1):92-102. doi:10.1111/jrh.12474

