

January 22, 2026

Senate Finance Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit STAR's support of HB 62, a bill relating to sexual assault examination kits.

HB 62 will bring Alaska closer to meeting national best standards of practice for processing sexual assault examination kits. The State of Alaska has worked diligently over the last several years to eliminate a backlog of evidence kits throughout the state. With a goal of never having another backlog of this kind, the system is seeking to be transparent and accountable at every turn.

It will require healthcare providers notify law enforcement within 14 days of collection that a sexual assault kit is completed and ready for submission. As the first step in this evidentiary process, it is reasonable that a clear time expectation is codified in statute. The national average is 24 hours, so 14 days appears to take into consideration the various constraints health providers may face in meeting such a deadline. The bill does not seek to penalize healthcare providers, rather it codifies a standard of practice, assures accountability, and encourages systemic problem-solving when the expectation cannot be met, for whatever reason.

The bill further requires law enforcement to send kits to the crime lab within 20 days. Law enforcement is further required to notify survivors within 14 days after testing. The crime lab is required to complete testing within 120 days of receiving each kit.

The statewide sexual assault examination kit tracking system – called Trak-Kit - provides survivors with an online portal to track the location and status of their kit from initial submission to final testing; it provides survivors the option to receive text or email notifications on the status of the kit in a trauma informed way and it provides survivors with resources. Providing this type of tool gives survivors a sense of control and participation in the investigative process, which can be crucial in their healing journey.

It will also allow the State to monitor kits and note where there are delays and address them in a systemic way. This transparency will avoid a backlog from developing in the future and will hold the system accountable to survivors of sexual assault.

Thank you for your time and attention to this proposed legislation. We believe it moves Alaska forward in the right direction for survivors of sexual assault.

Sincerely,



Keeley Olson  
Executive Director