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Senate Finance Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Co-Chairs, Senators Hoffman, Olson, and Stedman, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Victims for Justice (VFJ) is writing to express strong support for HB 62 – Strengthening Survivor Rights and Sexual Assault Kit Tracking. As an organization whose mission is *“to support and advocate for Alaskans affected by violent crime,”* we believe this legislation is essential to ensuring that survivors of sexual assault are treated with dignity, transparency, and respect throughout the criminal justice process.

The timely processing and tracking of sexual assault kits is not merely an administrative function; it is a core component of justice. When survivors are left without information about their kits, or when testing is delayed, it compounds trauma and erodes trust in the system meant to protect them. HB 62 directly addresses these long-standing gaps by establishing clear rights and expectations that honor survivors’ experiences.

HB 62 strengthens survivor rights and improves system accountability in several critical ways:

- Enhances Survivor Rights: Survivors will have the right to be notified of the location of their sexual assault examination kit and the date it is tested. This transparency acknowledges survivors’ need for information and control during an incredibly vulnerable time.
- Establishes Clear Timelines:
  - Health care providers must notify law enforcement within 14 days after evidence collection.
  - Law enforcement must send kits to the crime lab within 20 days.
  - Law enforcement agencies must notify survivors within 14 days after testing is completed.
  - The crime lab must complete testing within 120 days of receiving the kit. These timelines help ensure that evidence is processed promptly and consistently, reducing delays that have historically harmed survivors and hindered justice.

- Codifies a Statewide Tracking System: Survivors will be able to securely access the status of their kit and opt in for automated updates. This system empowers survivors with real-time information and reinforces transparency across agencies.

These reforms align closely with VFJ's commitment to advocating for trauma-informed practices and ensuring that survivors are not left in the dark about their own cases. Survivor notification and transparency are essential components of healing and justice, and HB 62 provides a clear, structured framework to support both.

Victims for Justice strongly urges the Senate Finance Committee to advance HB 62. This legislation represents a meaningful step toward accountability, consistency, and respect for survivors of sexual assault in Alaska.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to improving safety and justice for all Alaskans.

Sincerely,



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