

Mr. Chair and Members of the House Health and Social Services, for the record my name is Katie Botz representing myself from Juneau. I am for HB 275. My sincere apologies for not including the following in my public testimony.

As a survivor of sexual assault, this is another step in the correct direction to helping our victims of sexual assault. Alaska is still the highest in sexual assault, and 7 days is more than adequate for victims to get the proper services. Prior legislation has touch based of sexual assault rape kit forms, and it's nice to see that we are continuing to work together on these issues. (Please see HB 325, 2022) It is important to be mindful of our victims of sexual assault and to be victim oriented in our bills.

Victims are already traumatized by being assaulted as it is. It is very important to help speed up the process of sexual assault rape kits and be back to the proper courts to be mindful of the victim. I'm very pleased as a survivor to see that this bill will make medical examiner have only 7 days to process rape kits. Faster the kits can be properly processed is the best way to ensure safety for Alaskans. There shouldn't be any problems as long as we are victim oriented.

Please pass this bill with the 7 days and keeping victims oriented. Anything outside of 7 days are medical excuses for not doing their job in timely manner.

-Katie Botz
Juneau