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Governor Mike Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA

January 21, 2025

The Honorable Gary Stevens
Senate President
Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Building, Room 111
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill to establish timelines for submitting sexual assault examination kits to the lab for testing and to establish a sexual assault examination kit tracking system. This bill will assist in the timely transmission and testing of sexual assault examination kits, as well as assist victims in tracking the kits associated with their cases.

When a sexual assault examination kit is used to collect evidence, it is the responsibility of law enforcement to submit that kit to the lab for testing. This means that if a health care provider uses a sexual assault examination kit to collect evidence, law enforcement is responsible for picking up the kit from the health care provider and submitting it to the lab. This legislation establishes timelines for health care providers to notify law enforcement that a kit is available for pickup and ready for the laboratory to test. It also shortens the current timelines for law enforcement to submit the kit for testing. Restructuring these timelines will help ensure that sexual assault examination kits are processed in a more timely manner as intended by the underlying statute.

Additionally, this legislation establishes a sexual assault examination kit tracking system. The tracking system will be used throughout the collection and testing process. Health care providers and law enforcement will be able to upload information about when a kit was collected and sent to the lab. The lab will also be able to update the information as the kit is processed for testing. Victims will have the ability to log into the system and see where the kit associated with their case is in the process. They may even elect to receive automated notifications as the kit moves through the process. Requiring the use of the sexual assault examination kit tracking system at every phase of the process will go a long way towards helping victims stay informed.

These changes will help ensure timely processing of important evidence and will help increase transparency and accountability as sexual assault examination kits moves through the process. This is the least we can do for the victims of these horrendous crimes.

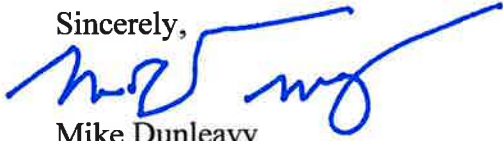
The Honorable Gary Stevens

January 21, 2025

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I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Dunleavy", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

Enclosure