

House Bill 182

REPRESENTATIVE GERAN TARR

February 4, 2020

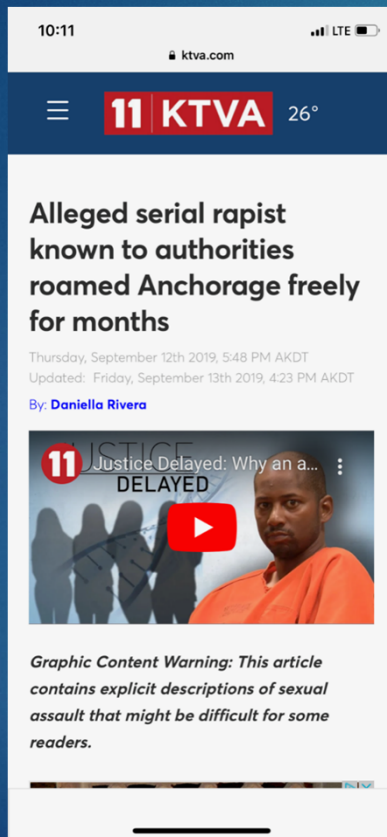
Joyful Heart Foundation – 6 Pillars

- ▶ 1. Annual statewide inventory of untested kits: A recurring count of all untested rape kits enables stakeholders to understand the scope of the problem and monitor progress.
- ▶ 2. Mandatory testing of backlogged kits: Eliminate the existing backlog by requiring law enforcement agencies to submit all previously untested kits to the lab and requiring the kits to be tested.
- ▶ 3. Mandatory testing of new kits: Prevent future backlogs by requiring law enforcement agencies to promptly submit all newly collected kits to the lab, and requiring the lab to test these kits within a specific time frame.
- ▶ 4. Statewide tracking system: Ensure that hospitals, law enforcement, and labs are using the same system to track rape kits. Build in a mechanism for survivors to check the status of their kits throughout the process, from collection to analysis.
- ▶ 5. Victims' rights to notice: Grant victims the right to receive information about the status and location of their rape kit, and require that victims be informed if their kit will not be tested and prior to destruction.
- ▶ 6. Funding for reform: Appropriate state funding to address these issues

Where are we?

Year	Item
2014	Launch Rape Kit Reform Initiative
2015	Introduce HB 117, requiring a statewide audit of all untested rape kits, legislative hearings lead to request for audit of the crime lab
2016	Continued working with crime lab staff and public safety officials on reforms like instituting a tracking system for all rape kits
2017	Reforms pass requiring statewide audit of untested kits (SB 55)
2018	Reforms pass establishing law enforcement and anonymous reports for victim centered approach, require law enforcement to have training on sexual assault response, require audit on untested kits to be annual (HB 31)
2019	Reforms pass requiring timely testing of rape kits and victim notification (HB 49)
2020	House Bill 182 to shorten timeline for testing – 60 days or 6 months?

Why Timing of Testing is Important



Mosley is in custody now, but he was allowed to roam Anchorage freely for more than eight months after Anchorage police detectives learned his DNA implicated him in three sexual assaults, and forwarded charges to the Department of Law.

During that time, a fourth woman was raped.

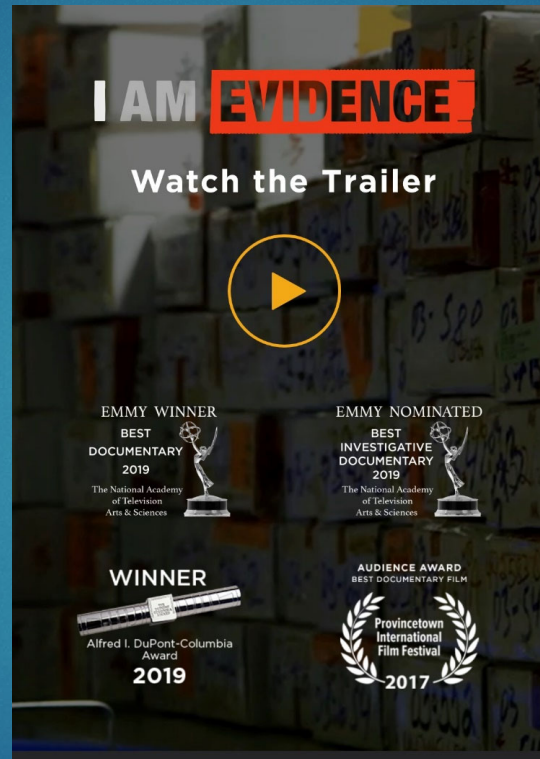
Lives Changed Forever

"The effect on the victims cannot be overstated. Some of these woman waited years to find out who their assailant was. [One woman] moved back to her hometown out of fear and shame. One of these women, after years of suffering from infertility despite her best efforts with her partner, became pregnant as a result of the rape. The cruel irony of carrying the child of her rapist after years of trying to have a child with her partner had a significant impact on her. For each of these women, they re-live the trauma of the rape and recently endured having to tell a grand jury what happened to them."

We MUST do better.

- ▶ Require all rape kits be tested with 60 days- best possible turnaround likely possible
 - ▶ Fiscal note- additional technical staff needed
 - ▶ Time needed to scale up for meeting requirement
 - ▶ Difficulty in finding and retaining qualified staff
 - ▶ 2 year timeline from creating position to hiring to fully trained
 - ▶ New leadership – David Kanaris
 - ▶ Special Assistant – Randi Breager
- ▶ 2020 goal – amend HB 182 to require testing within 6 months, work with crime lab to reassess resources necessary to meet goal of 60 days

I Am Evidence documentary



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_b1SbbSu6Y