



ANDVSA
Alaska Network on Domestic Violence
& Sexual Assault

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To: Representative Tarr
From: Carmen Lowry, ANDVSA Executive Director
Re: ANDVSA Support for CSSSHB 182
Date: 4 March 2020

CC: House Finance Committee

ANDVSA supports HB182 and encourages Finance Committee members to give favorable consideration and swift support to this survivor-supportive bill. Representative Tarr, ANDVSA further appreciates your consistent leadership in bringing forward legislation that is so clearly survivor-centered AND realistic and responsive to Alaska-specific challenges such as setting up realistic time frames.

HB 133 shortens the testing of sexual assault examination kits from one year, down to **six months**. This means once kits are received by the testing laboratory, they will be tested in six months or less.

A six month turn around means more possibilities for using evidence in investigations, and faster closure for victims. Additionally, a six-month kit testing time increases the likelihood that law enforcement and legal representatives will be able to reach victims for follow up, and further may reduce anxieties and fears that victims may experience during that time when they wait for information to emerge regarding the horrific experience of sexual violence.

Thank you,



Carmen Lowry
Executive Director

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