



ANDVSA
Alaska Network on Domestic Violence
& Sexual Assault

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To: House State Affairs Committee
Re: ANDVSA Support for HB20 Version 31-LS0253\O
Date: 4 April 2019

ANDVSA supports HB20 and encourages favorable consideration by committee members. The language and processes in this bill are survivor-centered and trauma-informed, while at the same time fiscally sound and practical. HB20 further provides critical information that can help stakeholders who work with victims and survivors of sexual crimes to be more efficient and responsive. In particular:

Section 4 - Timeframes

Clearly articulating timeframes to process kits and notify survivors means that survivors know what to expect during the process. This sharing of information and ensuring that survivors know what to expect are ways of being trauma-informed and upholding victims' rights.

Section 5 – Guidance to Law Enforcement Agencies to Report

Requiring that law enforcement agencies conduct an inventory of untested kits in their possession and report to the Department of Public Safety (not only the number of untested kits in their possession, but also the *reasons* these kits are untested) is a way to be more accountable.

Section 6 – Guidance to Department of Public Safety to Report

Requiring that the Department of Public Safety submits, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, a report that includes the number of untested kits stored by each law enforcement agency as well as the *reasons* for untested kits also enhances accountability.

Understanding the reasons that kits are not being tested will help stakeholders understand where gaps may be, better understand what training might be required, and help us better understand how to be more effective with kit testing so that the all of us can, in effect, be more responsive and trauma-informed when working with survivors who subject to sexual assault forensic examinations. Thank you.



Carmen Lowry
Executive Director

Cc: Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins, State Affairs Committee Co-Chair
Representative Zack Fields, State Affairs Committee Co-Chair
Representative Geran Tarr

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