



JOYFUL  
HEART  
FOUNDATION

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Oklahoma Senate Public Safety Committee  
State Capitol Building  
2300 North Lincoln Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Honorable Chair Weaver, Vice Chair Hamilton, and Members of the Committee,

The Joyful Heart Foundation strongly supports [Senate Bill 1584](#), which would ensure the swift testing of every rape kit, take dangerous offenders off the street, and bring justice to survivors. To date, 22 states and Washington, D.C. have laws in place that require crime labs to test rape kits expeditiously. With SB1584, Oklahoma is poised to join these states in ensuring swift handling and testing of rape kits.

Every 68 seconds, someone is sexually assaulted in the United States. In the immediate aftermath, a victim may choose to undergo a medical forensic examination—which can take four to six hours—to collect DNA evidence left behind by the attacker in what is commonly called a rape kit. When tested, this evidence can identify an unknown assailant, reveal serial offenders, and exonerate the wrongfully convicted. Too often, however, rape kits are left untested on evidence room shelves.

Oklahoma's current law, Title 74 § 150.28b (2025), requires law enforcement agencies to submit rape kits to the crime lab within 20 days. However, the law does not include mandatory timelines for medical facilities to notify law enforcement when they collect a new kit; for law enforcement to pick up the kits from medical facilities; or for crime labs to test the newly collected rape kits. The lack of mandatory kit testing timelines means that the crime lab could take months or years to test rape kits, leaving survivors waiting for justice.

SB1584 would change that by creating a mandatory 30-day rape kit testing timeline for the newly collected rape kits. The bill would also shorten the timeline law enforcement agencies must submit rape kits to the crime lab from 20 days to 10 days. These provisions ensure that newly collected rape kits are tested swiftly, and prevent future backlogs. Additionally, this bill would align the state with federal best practices, which unambiguously recommend submitting every rape kit connected to a reported sexual assault to a crime lab for DNA analysis.

Testing rape kits quickly is crucial in preventing crime. [Eliza Fletcher](#) was abducted while out jogging on September 2, 2022 in Memphis, TN. Her body was found three days later. DNA found in Fletcher's case was

matched to a rape kit collected on September 21, 2021, which was not uploaded into the rape kit tracking system until the same day Fletcher was found. Alicia Franklin, who reported the rape a year earlier, said she was not given updates about her case for months, despite immediately seeking medical attention and reporting the rape to the police. If Alicia's rape kit was tested swiftly, Eliza could be alive today. By mandating testing timelines and shortening the timeline law enforcement has to submit rape kits to the crime lab, SB1584 ensures such tragedies are avoided in Oklahoma.

The Joyful Heart Foundation thanks you for your efforts on this issue and urges you to pass this legislation out of committee. We stand ready to assist you in creating safer communities and offering a path to healing and justice to all sexual assault survivors in Oklahoma.

Sincerely,

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