



The SAFER Act of 2017

End the Rape Kit Backlog – Sponsored by Senators Cornyn, Klobuchar, Heller, and Bennet

The nationwide backlog of untested rape kits is a national scandal with tragic consequences for sexual assault victims. Thousands rape kits currently sit untested in labs and on police storage shelves across the nation—each one of them holding the potential to solve a crime, imprison a rapist and provide a victim with the justice they deserve.

The *SAFER Act* was originally signed into law in 2013 and is already helping end the rape kit backlog by better targeting existing funds under the *Debbie Smith Act*. The *SAFER Act* helps State and local law enforcement agencies to end both the laboratory and storage rape kit backlogs by providing State and local governments with funding to conduct one-year audits of the untested sexual assault evidence in their possession. Similar audits conducted in local jurisdictions across the country have uncovered tens of thousands of untested rape kits.

The *SAFER Act of 2017* would continue to help reduce the rape kit backlog and provide victims. Specifically, the *SAFER Act*:

- Ensures both adult and pediatric forensic nurses are eligible for training and highlights the need for pediatric sexual assault nurse examiners in responding to children suffering from child abuse.
- Reauthorizes the current SAFER program and extends the sunset of the program.

Senator John Cornyn, a Republican from Texas, is a member of the Senate Finance, Intelligence, and Judiciary Committees.

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