

TO: The Honorable Fred Patton, Chair

And Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Morgan Stebens, MSN-FN, RN, SANE-A

On behalf of the Kansas Chapter of the International Association of Forensic Nurses

RE: The Kansas Chapter of the International Association of Forensic Nurses support

for the HB 2228 bill

On behalf of the Kansas Chapter of the International Association of Forensic Nurses, I, Morgan Stebens, would like to write in support of the bill HB 2228.

The Kansas Chapter of IAFN is comprised of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) located throughout Kansas. The Kansas Chapter of IAFN has been involved in state-level efforts to improve sexual assault evidence collection processes and access to exams in Kansas through the Kansas Sexual Assault Kit Initiative and now the Kansas Sexual Assault Response Advisory Committee

HB 2228 will help to ensure that all sexual assault kits are tested in a timely manner and therefore will help to prevent backlog of cases and kits accumulated in the state of Kansas. Not only is this helpful for the justice system, but also to the victims and survivors of sexual assault in Kansas. This will ensure that their evidence is secured and handled properly and in a timely manner. In Kansas, a sexual assault victim has the ability and right to have an exam performed with or without reporting to law enforcement. This bill will help to ensure that the survivor's evidence will be preserved as they consider their reporting options. Ultimately, we will be able to serve our patients and fellow citizens in a more efficient and trauma-informed manner.

Morgan Stebens, MSN-FN, RN, SANE-A