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Dear Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Sabrina Sivert, and I am a survivor of sexual abuse. It's been eight years since I came forward about my sexual assault but I can still remember every detail like it was yesterday. I was 18 walking into the police station lost, scared, hurt, confused, and feeling so alone.

For 8 months a person of authority, my instructor of the fire academy I was in sexually, physically, mentally, and emotionally abused me. I thought I would tell the police what happened and everything would go back to normal but that was not the case. My life has been forever changed because of this and the process of coming forward.

For months I would be dragged all around giving statements, writing down what happened, being doubted, bullied, and going to many different doctor appointments. Then court began and that was dragged out for almost a year. I was no longer being physically hurt but was having to constantly relive my worst days over and over again.

Having DNA evidence from a sexual assault collected and analyzed in a fast and timely manner and not held for months or even sometimes years or having evidence thrown away, would have made my whole case a different outcome and would've allowed the process to move along faster causing less trauma and allowing more time to begin the healing process.

Passing this bill will guarantee that survivors of sexual assault have their forensic evidence collected in a timely manner and will make the process just a bit faster and smoother so they can begin to process and heal.